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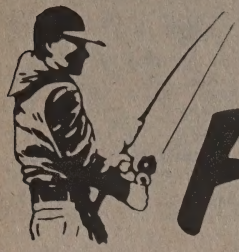

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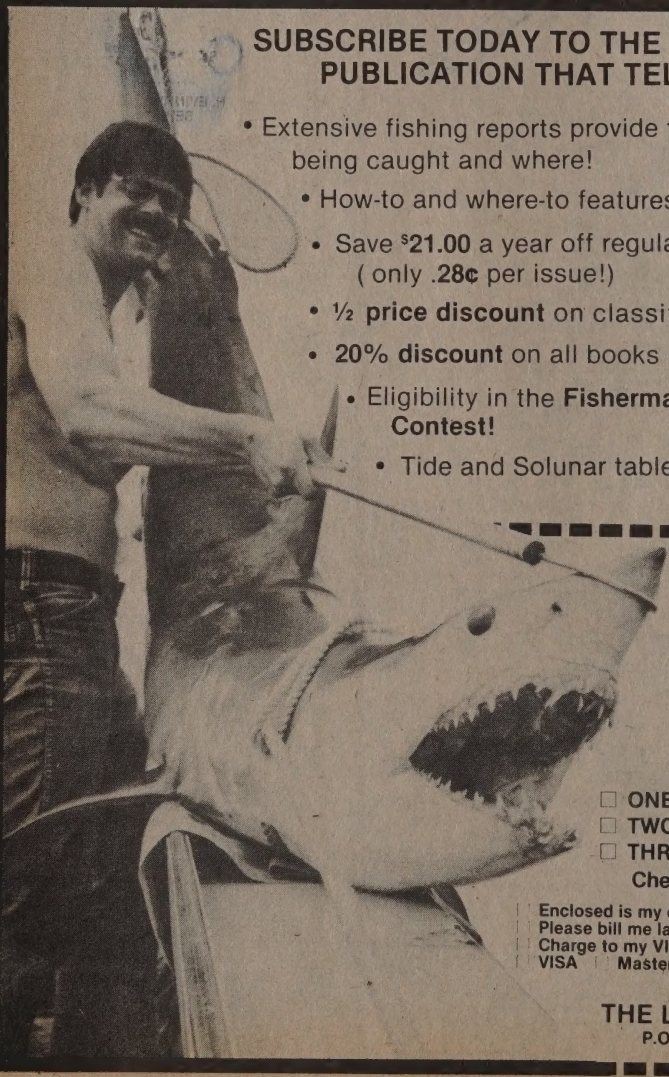

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The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 16, Number 30 **July 30th, 1981**

Features:

NATIONAL SCENE ..... Al Ristori 8
Fish Talk:
ON THE ENVIRONMENT ..... William A. Muller ... 10
Surf Fishing:
KINGFISH FROM THE BEACH ..... Herb Buch 12
Sinker Bouncing:
THINK LIKE A FISH ..... Matt Ahern 14
Boating Tips:
OUTBOARDS IN THE BRINE ..... Bob Whittier 16
POPULAR PORGIES ..... Fred Guardineer 17
On the Market:
CONVENTIONAL TACKLE ..... Al Ristori 18
CANYON OF AWE ..... Dick Mermon 20
KIDS & SNAPPERS ..... Gerald Hahn 22

Departments:

Pass It On 4
New Products 6
Boating 7
Bumper Sticker Contest 9
Fishing Reports 24
Fisherman's Classified 48
Tide Tables 51
Solunar Tables 51

About the Cover—

Yellowfin tuna provide lots of action out in the "Canyons" but on any given trip, there is no telling what will wallop a lure or bait. See the article "Canyon of Awe" on page 20. Cover by Dick Mermon.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **LATE SUMMER WEAKS**

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W.A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
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Pass It On...

SURFSIDE III TUNA CLUB HOLDS ANNUAL SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

The Surfside III Tuna Club recently held their Annual Senior Citizens Day at the Surfside Lounge. There were more than eight boats with 45 anglers fishing from the Rainbow Senior Citizens Center in Lindenhurst.

First place went to Cecelia Gafenstein with a 2 lb. 12 oz. fluke fishing aboard Gerry Bricker's boat Reel Hooker.

Second went to Joseph Bisbano with a 2 lb. 10 oz. fluke aboard Richard Ferry's boat Rum 'N Coke. At this time we would like to thank Maryann Sterlacci, Diane Sindone, Connie Varone and Margaret Bricker for their assistance serving refreshments. A special thanks to John Hudson for use of the Nautilus Supper Club in Lindenhurst. A good day was enjoyed by all.

LIBBA MEETING AND JAMBOREE UPCOMING

There will be a Long Island Beach Buggy Association Board of Directors meeting at Bondi's Tavern, Montauk Highway, Patchogue on August 6, 1981 at 8PM. Anyone interested in the functions of this organization may attend. For more information, call 261-9767.

* * *

On the weekend of August 14, 15, and 16, the LIBBA will hold its annual Jamboree at Cathedral Pines Parkland in Middle Island. At the Jamboree, LIBBA will provide corn-on-the-cob, Miller High Life beer on tap, and entertainment for Saturday's scheduled dance. Also included will be auctions, kid's games, and an adult tug-'o-war.

Fees for the event are as follows:

PER PERSON	
Adult Members	$4
Members' children	$2
Adult guests	$5
Guest children	$3

Sunday only—deduct 50%

Camping fee per night with Suffolk County Outer Beach Permit—$1; without permit—$3.

For directions, call 261-9767.

SUMMARY OF 1981 ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA REGULATIONS COURTESY NMFS

PERMITS:

a) Any vessel taking giant tuna (over 310 lbs.) must have a permit issued by NMFS and must carry it on board at all times.

b) Vessels taking tuna weighing less than 310 lbs. are not required to have a permit.

c) Vessels taking giant tuna must travel to and from the grounds under their own power and must catch the giants without assistance from other vessels.

d) Dealers and receivers of tuna must obtain a dealer license.

TAGS:

a) Masters of vessels who take giant tuna are **not** required to tag them. However, masters must sign a reporting card which is submitted by dealer.

b) Dealers/Receivers must tag each giant immediately upon landing.

REPORTS:

a) Fishermen have no reporting requirements.

b) Dealers must submit within 24 hrs. a reporting card for each giant tuna received and a weekly report of all tuna received to the NMFS.

TUNA TRANSFERS:

a) it is prohibited to transfer any tuna at sea without a valid dealer license for "buy boat" operations.

CATCH LIMITS:

a) **Tuna under 310 lbs.** Each ANGLER may take four per day but only one of the four may weigh between 135 and 310 lbs.

b) **Giants** (over 310 lbs.)—Five per vessel per week (Sunday through Saturday) from the "Southern Area" which is west and south of Gay Head Light on Martha's Vineyard.

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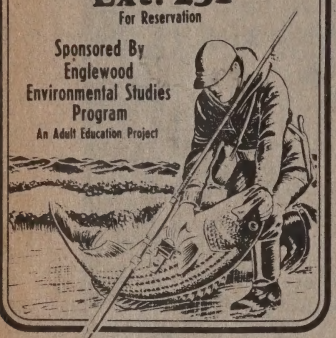

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than 14 lbs.

School - 26'' to 57''; 14 to 135 lbs.
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Questions on these or other Federal regulations may be addressed to: The National Marine Fisheries Service, Law Enforcement Branch at: 755 New York Ave., Huntington, N.Y.; (516) 423-4442; State Fish Pier, Gloucester, Ma.; (617)281)3600.

1ST ANNUAL L.I. TUNA TOURNEY SCHEDULED OCT. 3

The Hudson Anglers and Tournament Anglers are pleased to announce the co-sponsoring of the 1st Annual Long Island Tuna Tournament. The event will be held on October 3, 1981. Mako Marina located at 117 Hudson Street, Freeport, has been selected by both clubs as Tournament Headquarters.

This Tournament has been specifically established by the two clubs as a non-profit sporting event designed to promote rod and reel angling; encourage good sportsmanship and aid marine science by providing specimens for research and laboratory study.

All clubs and individuals both male and female are invited to participate. Prize monies will be distributed for winning fish that are caught by both trolling and chumming methods. Entry forms can be obtained by calling Mako Marina, 516-378-7331. Ask for Larry Izzo.

New Products

NEW FROM S.M.R.

The SMR Striker 40+2 marine CB with two separate VHF weather channels and 40 channel CB operation represents the most sophisticated CB radio ever to be introduced to the recreational boater. Manufactured by Southern Marine Research, Inc. (SMR), the marine CB offers numerous features that make the radio practical and affordable for the pleasure boater.

Designed to withstand the punishment necessary to marine use, the Striker 40+2 has the capability of receiving two VHF weather frequencies WX-1 (162.550 MHz), as well as transmitting and receiving on 40 CB frequencies. Remote channel selection buttons and an auto-scan mode selector function built into the heavy-duty microphone are other unique features of the SMR CB. Channels may be selected individually by pushing either the ''Up'' or ''Down'' buttons in the microphone. For quick channel selection, either button may be pushed continuously and the unit will skip channels in-between. By depressing both buttons simultaneously, the unit will automatically scan the frequencies until a signal stronger than the desired pre-set squelch is received. A priority Channel 9 switch also allows the operator to switch to the emergency frequency quickly at any time.

Other features of the Striker 40+2 include an easy to read LED channel readout, an RF output signal meter, heavy-duty construction, a steel cabinet, a front-mounted plug-in mike connector, control knobs for squelch, volume and RF gain control, an external speaker or headphone jack and a special mounting bracket allowing the unit to quickly be installed or removed in any position.

For further information, contact: Southern Marine Research, Inc. (SMR), 7512 N.W. 55th St., Miami, FL 33166.

NEW PRODUCTS

Reliable Gaff Co. of Massapequa, N.Y. has just introduced two new items and two variations on already existing items. Brand new to lift giant tuna into your boat is Reliable's Meathook, a solid steel hook, electropolished in 16'' and 26'' overall length. Looks great and is super strong. Also brand new, the ''Bluebird'' a device to immobilize a large bass, weak or blue and hold mouth open for fast and easy hook removal.

A new ''Sharpshooter'' series of flying gaffs with interchangeable heads in an economy line. Finally, there's the ''Sharpshooter'' fighting belt, lower priced than Reliable's ''Sharkmaster'' belt, with some design features that allow mass production, thus lower cost, with the same strength and quality as its brother. Reliable products are available at your local tackle shops.

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Penn's durable Jigmaster reels are still the only reels to have on board for fast action jigging and boat casting. They have an unsurpassed reputation for rugged strength, smooth action and super fast retrieve.

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Glass reinforced Lexan side plates resist extreme heat, cold and corrosive elements. Take-apart of this rugged reel is a snap! It features a simple single-screw take-down system that allows for quick maintenance and spool change. Even though the 500SM comes with a standard chrome-plated brass spool, a lightweight aluminum or plastic spool is available as an accessory part. Gear ratio 4-1. Spool width: 2-7/16''. Capacity 300 yds./30 lb. mono. Weight: 22 oz. Comes with rod clamps.

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reel and the entire Penn line of great American-made reels, write: Penn Reels, Dept. p, 3028 W. Hunting Park Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19132. Phone 215-229-9415.

BOATING

ATTENTION: BOATING PUBLIC

A Workshop/Seminar, on LORAN C and its application to pleasure boating will be held 8PM, August 6th in the Long Beach Public Library at 111 West Park Avenue, Long Beach, under the sponsorship of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-3.

The Seminar will be chaired by Edward Sweeney, Division Operations Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. A Coast Guard Publication on LORAN C and a suitable chart will be distributed without charge. The boating public and others having an interest in marine navigation are invited.

BOATING ORGANIZATION ENHANCES ITS IMAGE

To clarify its identification as a boating organization for all boaters, United States Power Squadrons (USPS) had added a new phrase—Sail and Power Boating—to its name.

"It more accurately reflects the true meaning of our organization and at the same time gives due recognition to the many sailors who are USPS members," said Chief Commander James H. Pou Bailey, who made the announcement.

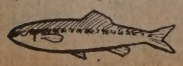
Sailors nationwide represent approximately 20% of the general boating population, according to Commander Bailey, who said the number of sailors in USPS exceeds the national average and ranges as high as 25% and 30% of the USPS membership in many areas of the country.

"The new tag will hopefully clear the air for those boaters who previously thought USPS was for power boaters only," said the chief commander. "That is certainly not the case since our membership has always consisted of boaters involved in both sail and power," he said.

The decision to add the tagline was agreed to by a majority of member delegates at a recent USPS Governing Board meeting in New Orleans.

The new phrase will be gradually incorporated into all USPS stationery and other references to the organization. The changeover is expected to be completed within the next 12 months.

USPS, with over 55,000 members, is the largest private boating fraternity in the country.



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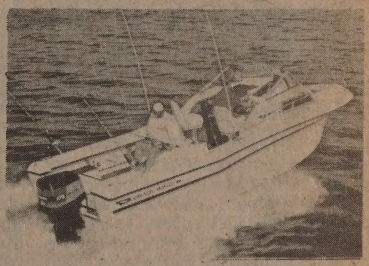

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NATIONAL SCENE

M.C.A. Tournament a Winner!

by Al Ristori

The Montauk Captains Association Charity Shark Tournament; held at Henry Colombi's Star Island Yacht Club the weekend of July 11-12, was a big success. The 120-boat field was filled, and there was a beehive of activity around the marina all weekend—especially during the Saturday afternoon weigh-ins.

The sure winners in this affair were the charities involved. Both the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Fund benefitted to the tune of $1500 each, while the Montauk Ambulance Squad was blessed with $3000. An additional $500 went to the Montauk Little League for new equipment.

The contest winner was settled about 2:30 the first afternoon when a 25' Boston Whaler Outrage pulled in with a 575 lb. tiger shark. Ira Bard, of Larchmont, and his crew had quite a battle with the huge shark and decided to return early. The tournament rules provided that only one shark could be weighed in per day in order to encourage tagging and releasing. The "Lady Shazam" followed with a 402 lb. mako, but Captain Charley Nappi was knocked off the board that afternoon by a couple of bigger tiger sharks. Many other fine tigers and makos were brought in for weighing, along with a few blues and a single hammerhead.

The second day was almost anticlimatic after the first shark was weighed. Once again it was a big tiger on a small boat that challenged for the lead. However, the 571 lb. tiger taken by Pete Herbst, of Old Lyme, Connecticut, fell just four pounds short of the winner. That tiger was boated on a Mako 25. Open center console boats have been winning one shark tournament after another this summer—yet, just a few years ago most tournaments banned boats under 26'! The top two sharks were worth $3000 and $2000 respectively, while a 470 lb. tiger took $1000 for third.

Relatively few sharks were weighed in on Sunday as everyone knew that they had to have a shark over 450 lbs. just to be in contention for third place! That was quite a contrast to last year's initial tournament when almost all the sharks caught the first day were small, and the two biggest sharks of the contest were disqualified—one of which came in hours after the weigh-in deadline, while the other was harpooned next to the boat as it broke loose on the leader after a long fight.

Though the fishing wasn't wild, there were lots of makos caught this year, and the number of tigers was amazing. The Montauk Captains Association and Star Island Yacht Club are to be congratulated on operating a very smoothly run tournament. As it appears that they just don't have the capacity for many more boats, it might be wise for anyone interested in fishing next year's affair to sign up as quickly as possible!

Why Sharks Can Be Easily Fished Out

A talk with Jack Casey and his NMFS crew of shark experts from the Narragansett Marine Lab provided plenty of insight into the delicate state of the shark population. Jack examined some very large makos while at Montauk and found that all the females were immature. That included the 402 lber., and a 548 lb. mako caught the day before the tournament by the boat "Wake." It's amazing to think that such huge creatures could still be immature, but Jack has examined only a few mature female makos—and all of those have been over 800 lbs.!

Males mature at much smaller sizes, but little is known about pregnant females. There is only one record of a pregnant female being caught on this side of the Atlantic, and that was off Bimini about 30 years ago. Some makos with pups have been recorded off New Zealand, but Jack suspects that such fish must have a completely different life style that carries them into deep ocean waters far away from fishermen.

Biologist Wes Pratt was able to determine that some of the largest tigers were mature, though he didn't think that they had ever spawned as yet. Since sharks are long-lived and mature very slowly, they are particularly vulnerable to overfishing. That's especially true when you consider that they produce only a relatively few pups when they do spawn—rather than millions of eggs.

Even more unusual than the big fish at the tournament were a couple of the small ones. Lewis Feinman, of Haworth, N.J., brought in a 10½ lb. mako that was courageous enough to hit a big shark bait. Jack Casey estimated that the tiny mako was only a month or so old. Another tiny catch was a tiger of about 15 lbs. Both of these fish were among the smallest of these species that Jack has ever seen.

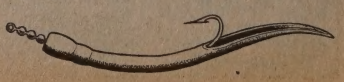
Biologist Chuck Stillwell was hard at work on his studies of food contents in shark stomachs. The sand eel explosion of the past decade has resulted in even sharks and white marlin feeding on that abundant schooling species, but the mako's favorite is our friend, the bluefish. The aging of sharks is another major Narragansett Lab project. All of this information is necessary in order to deal with the ever-increasing pressure on the shark populations in our area and to be prepared for possible management in the future.

Everglades Battle Continues

Woodmere Attorney Marty Topal continues to work hard to fend off efforts by commercial mullet netters trying to upset a Federal policy designed to end all netting in Everglades National Park by 1985. Lawsuits by the Organized Fishermen of Florida, a commercial group, have created some concern in the Department of the Interior with the result that the agreement may be rescinded. Public hearings were held in Florida recently and the Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, should be making a decision on this matter very shortly. Now is the time to bombard Watt with letters asking him to ban that netting right now and save what is left of the dwindling fish populations.

New York Landings Improved in 1980

It may be hard to believe after all the sad stories we sometimes hear from commercial fishermen, but 1980 was a pretty good year. New York finfish landings were up almost two million pounds from 25,056,323 to 27,026,446 lbs. The value increased at an even sharper rate, going from $10,278,859 to $12,201,035. Shellfish landings were up slightly, but the value soared by over $4 million. As this is being written, the Montauk draggers have a very good deal going. They're catching thousands of pounds of squid each day and transferring them to a Japanese vessel involved in a joint venture. The price is right and these captains are making out very well on a deal which is of benefit to both parties.



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FISH TALK

ON THE ENVIRONMENT

by William A. Muller

G. T. MILTON of Sparta, New Jersey. "I am very upset about an article that I recently read and have attached. The article discusses the harvest of mackerel on our Continental Shelves by foreign nations. For the people who are supposed to monitor and protect our fisheries to even think of allowing foreigners to fish here again after their sea-rape of the 60s and 70s is positively ludicrous! Observers, quotas, most favored nation status, and all the rest of the methods proposed to placate the sportsman comes under the heading of bull-dung; there is only one true control and that's keep them out! Could LIF print a listing of all responsible politicians and members of applicable committees who are in a position to regulate and affect this situation? If this could be done in an organized form, we non-political sportsmen could see at a glance, 1) who is appointed; 2) who is the boss; and 3) who should we respond to when making a particular request. This type of listing could be updated from time to time and reflect status changes. It would become obvious in short order who wears the white hats and who wears the black hats.

CLARIFY! It behooves me to take a few lines to clarify the existing situation with respect to the management of our coastal resources. Under the rules and regulations of the system and basic philosophy of the management plans, foreign vessels are allowed to apply for a permit, pay a fee, and take a prescribed amount of particular species. This has been the case all along. The science behind this approach goes something like this. The United States has some responsibility to share its Shelf fisheries with the rest of the world, although the primary responsibility of management is ours. Thus, it was determined what the stock of various species was, what the domestic fishermen could harvest, and then the remainder was allocated to foreign vessels. We are supposed to place on-board observers with the foreign vessels to make sure that there were no flagrant violations of the management plans. In some cases, where species have very short life spans, catches were deliberately permitted high so that the resource would not go to "waste." In theory at least, this seems reasonable. However, if we allow ourselves a closer look and go beyond the superficial, we begin to see some problems. These problems have also been noted by other writers and concerned citizens as well as the Congress. Congress has held a number of oversight hearings because some Congressmen are concerned that the 200-Mile Limit law is not being implemented in the way they intended it to be—at least for some species. Thus, it does not appear to be fair to point fingers at the Congressional group although one could argue that they haven't been aggressive enough on this to correct existing situations that are in direct opposition to their original intent. Most of the problems seem to come from two areas. First, official government agencies such as the Department of State and the Department of Commerce. The leaders of these agencies have attempted to use the situation to gain political leverage and advantage. In other words, we aren't always sure that their pressure and decisions are made in the best interests of the fish, but rather in the best interest of people—particularly government people.

SECOND. The second group has been the Management Councils themselves with lots of help from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Councils seem to be heavily weighted towards the commercial and the scientists and conservation officers from the states have proven histories of pro-commercial attitudes in many cases. Thus, these people push for higher domestic commercial allotments without a care for the environment or the recreational industry. We have pointed out to them repeatedly, both in written form and as a member of several subpanels, that before allotments are made for harvest, the first allotment should go to the environment. That is, how much of this or that species does the sea need as part of its natural cycle of life? The Councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service have repeatedly ignored this point. Second, we have suggested that there needs to be an allotment for the recreational industry—not just a species here and there—but for all species because even if we don't catch a given species, it may be a vital link in the chain of life that allows us to catch another species in good numbers. Butterfish and squid are excellent examples of this ignorance and insensitivity.

SAME OLD TRICK. History seems to be attempting to repeat itself with the bluefish management plan now under consideration. The original NMFS document in discussion of the four alternative proposals for the bluefish plan clearly stated their recognition of the intense interest in bluefish among recreational anglers and they repeatedly pointed out the large attendances at public hearings. (Pat yourselves on the back, folks.) However, the minutes of a recent meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Council shows that the commercial interest is already on its horse to try and revise alternative #4 in such a way so as to delay the development of a plan indefinitely or provide larger domestic commercial allotments. Their discussion of possible jurisdictional disputes between the states and the Federal management plan is an example. The bluefish is clearly an oceanic species that happens to spend some of its time inshore and thus must be managed in the same way as mackerel, etc. In other words, these are ploys and we'll have to be ready to voice our opposition should it come to that. To NMFS's credit, they did state clearly that the recreational anglers would not stand for any prostitution of alternative #4. Let's hope they stick to their guns otherwise we'll stir up a fuss the size of which the Washington folks will talk about for a long time! Pinpointing the "black and white hats" is not that easy, but we keep our noses to the grindstone in order to hear and smell out any possible transgressions so that we can pass them along.

LAST THOUGHT. I think, in the final analysis, that I agree with you about kicking the foreigners out. Perhaps we've missed an important point here. That is, if we help to develop our own domestic commercial fishing fleet (IN THE RIGHT WAY), can't these U.S. fishermen sell the catch to interested parties on other continents? Maybe it's a way to improve the balance of payments? Now we said in the **right way**. There is now great conflict between the recreational industry and the commercial industry. This conflict is destined to grow because of the insensitivity of Washington, commercial fishermen, and state conservation officials. Recreational fishermen are limited to the inshore and near shore areas. Obviously commercial fishermen aren't. Why not allocate the inshore and near shore to recreation,

prohibit commercial fishing in that zone and provide financial aid to commercial fishermen to develop larger and more fuel efficient boats to work offshore. It would be a lot easier to monitor domestic operations in accordance with specific management plans. In recent months, many experts have written and testified that the small inshore commercial operator is a living fossil; antiquated by technology and economic reality. Are we dinosaurs? Do we have to wait until we have almost taken the last step off the cliff before we realize that we are about to fall? Can't we just once use our brains to help ourselves before there's a crisis?

SPORTSMEN, CLEAN UP YOUR ACT! C. Seidenberg of Brooklyn writes: "Although I have only been a fishing enthusiast for the past two years and I am not really qualified to be critical and pass judgment of others, articles in LIF have made me aware and I feel compelled to comment. Everywhere you look today, someone will be expressing concern about the environment and ecology. However, some take the attitude, 'to hell with the other guy'. Sport fishermen need to clean up their act too. I'm referring to party boats that carry 30-60 people per trip who wantonly destroy non-edible fish such as bergalls, blowfish, and the like simply because they're not interested in eating them. Why not simply return these fish? How about litterbugs—beer cans, food wrappers, bottles, and other waste? Why can't we consider that the twenty feet of discarded monofilament line might kill an unlucky fish or bird? I hope we give more consideration to our own pollution behavior and thus help to preserve our fishing for our children and our children's children."

FIRST! A minor correction. Both bergalls and blowfish are edible. One could perhaps argue that blowfish are a bit better than bergalls...but! We think that it was fair of you to single out the party boats because we have seen environmental abuses among individual fishermen. Perhaps you do all your fishing on party boats and that's why it stands out in your memory, or perhaps the sheer numbers of people is the problem. However, if you go out on the water and watch thirty to sixty fishermen in individual boats you'll see as much garbage thrown over as if these folks were on one boat. It doesn't really matter since your point is well taken about human pollution in general. And here we are, the great protectors of the marine environment and at times we are the most callous. I think that we all need to think about our habits. Perhaps it isn't so much work to stow the garbage in a bag and bring it back to the dock after all? And maybe it isn't so horrible that a bergall here and there might be allowed to steal bait from another luck fisherman who is trying to catch the same weakfish that you are? Think about it!

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SURF FISHING

Kingfish From The Beach

by Herb Buch

If someone were to mention catching kingfish from the beach, many surf fishermen would put him down as confused. Most people identify kingfish as big, toothy members of the mackerel family, usually caught offshore and to our south. They would be unlikely to know about that member of the drum or croaker family (**Sciaenidae**) which was once one of the most reliable targets of local surf anglers. As relatives of the weakfish, you would expect them to be good to eat and good fighters, and you would not be disappointed on either count.

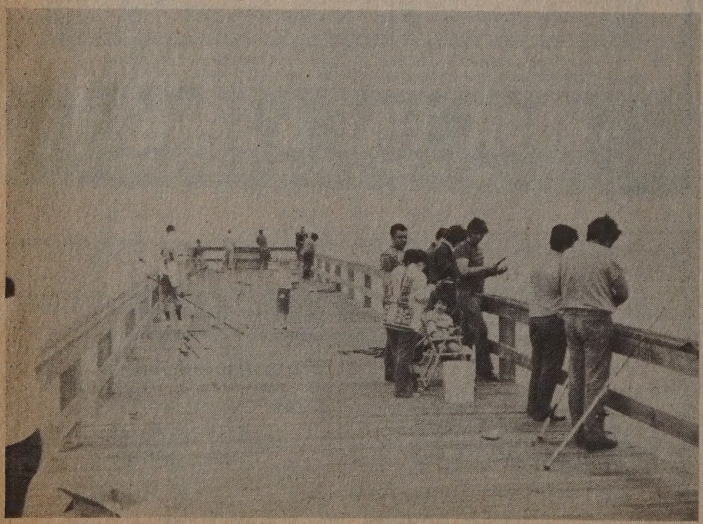
At one time, you could expect to catch kings from the beach just about any time that you tried during a season that stretched from May to October. I can remember great runs of these small gamesters along the beach at the old #9 parking field at Jones Beach. Many mornings, as early in the season as May, the beach would be lined with fishermen, shoulder to shoulder, and everyone taking fish. What happened to all of those fish? No one really knows, but we say that they are at a low point of one of their cycles. Most old-timers can remember when weaks were almost non-existent on Long Island, and more difficult to believe, the years when blues were very scarce. We should be due for a population explosion of kingfish some year. This is easily possible because there is a native population, even though it is small at present, and a good spawning year could result in a large jump in their numbers. These fish mature rapidly and an increased spawning population might bring a return to the abundance of the past.

A couple of nice kingfish taken from the beach. Note the barbel beneath the chin.

How do you recognize a kingfish? They are round-bodied fish, with undershot mouths, a small projection (barbel) hanging from the lower jaw, and dark bars across their backs. Their brownish colors blend very well with the sandy bottom where they are usually found. They have two relatives: the southern kingfish and the Gulf kingfish, which are very similar in appearance, but usually only found much to the south of our area. Local names such as whiting or mullet can be very confusing if you talk to southerners about this species. At the present time they are much more abundant to our south, but even there, they are not as common as they have been.

You may run across this fish just about anywhere that you have a sandy bottom. At the present time, you cannot fish for them with too much hope for success, except for one situation, which I will get to later. In general, they will be taken while trying for other fish, provided that the bait and hook are appropriate.

For example, a few years ago, my wife and I were fishing for flounders at Democrat Point during May. we were casting to the edge of the channel, from the sand bar. The bloodworm bait produced two nice kings, as well as several flounder. We



The Jones Beach Piers can provide good kingfishing at times.

also spoke to some youngsters who had taken several other kings near the jetty. Another time, in September, we were talking to a young man who was snapper fishing from the beach inside Fire Island Inlet using spearing under a bobber. He asked us if we could identify a few fish that were new to him. They turned out to be kingfish. One more example was the sudden interest in kingfish rigs when fishermen on the Jones Beach piers began to bring in occasional kings on assorted rigs.

The common factor is a small hook and moderately small baits. Once you know that they are around there are some rigs that produce better than others. The best bait will vary with location and season.

When I want to check out the surf, I look for a deep cut near the beach. These are easy to identify at low tide. Try to get there for the last of the incoming tide and the high water, preferably early or late in the day. At such times you can put out a big bait on a big rod for bass or blues, and use a light stick to try for kings. You can take kings at any time of the day, but bigger fish are not likely to show when the sun is high, and kingfishing at present is generally hit or miss.

My favorite rig for these fish, if crabs are not a problem, is a pompano rig with two #4 or 6 Sproat hooks on the droppers. For those of you who are not familiar with this rig, take three feet of 20 lb. test mono, and tie a large loop at one end for the sinker, and a small loop for the line at the other end. Space two dropper loops equally along this leader and attach your hooks with short snells, no more than six inches long. (I prefer them shorter.) The reason for this rig is the way that kingfish take the bait. They grab and run. With short droppers, you should know the instant that they take the bait, and set that hook before they can rip the bait off and escape. I rarely use a sand spike for these fish because the rod goes way over at the take but by the time you grab the rod the fish is gone. You do better by holding the rod and reacting promptly to any tug. When crabs are bothering you, lengthen the snells a bit and add small corks to each snell to keep the hooks off the bottom. If crabs are really swarming you may have to go to a two or three foot leader with a cork to keep the bait well off the bottom. Fish this last rig on a three-way swivel or with a fish finder rig.

The most commonly used baits are clams and worms, but if price is no object, shrimp or shedder crab are great. you can net your own grass shrimp, and rake your own shedder crab, if you have the time, but generally worms and clam will do the job. On beaches where mole crabs are found, they are often the only bait that works well. If you find a colony of these crabs try them, but do not advertise their presence as they may be wiped out by over-harvesting and they are already rare on Long Island Beaches. small spearing, small sand eels, and strips of squid may change your luck at times.

When kings are abundant, it is not unusual to take them on lures. Small, quarter ounce bucktail jigs, or snapper size spoons will do the job. In spite of their undershot jaws, they do chase bait, and will come up for it when they want to.

The heaviest rod that you should use is a nine footer, with a light tip. Use this with two to four ounces of lead, the less the better. These are small fish, averaging from 1/2 to 1½ lbs. weight. My preference is a 7', light saltwater spin stick which is not too powerful to use with 8 lb. test mono. Any good small reel will do the job. With this outfit, it is often possible to fish the open beach with a one ounce pyramid sinker. It is also ideal for inlet and bay shore work.

Kingfish run actively when hooked, and will really bend a light rod. They also have one trick that often earns them freedom in the surf. They will run swiftly toward the beach, and often throw the hook while the line is slack. If you set the hook and then lose contact with the fish, reel rapidly to take up slack in case the fish is coming toward you. You may catch up with him just as he reaches the wash.

I have mentioned that I like to fish cuts along the open beach. They also frequent cuts and holes along, or at the end of jetties, and channels in or near inlets. Do not just throw out the rig and let it sit. They may be feeding on the far bank of a cut, or in the wash at your feet. Try long casts to the outside ends of runouts if you are lucky enough to locate them. Move the bait periodically to try different areas.

Now for your best bet. If you really want a kingfish, work one of the south shore inlets during the month of October. I don't know if it is because fish are leaving the bays, or that surf fish are congregating to get at the bait at these locations, but this is your best opportunity to score. I can recommend fishing from the jetties where they exist, and also from the shore all the way around into the bay. You will have to look for eddies, during running tides, or limit your activity to slack water periods or the slack side of a jetty. Weeds which may be very thick at times, can limit your options. This is my favorite time of the year because I can fish one rod in a spike with a good chance for weaks or blues, while I work a light rod for kings, and any of the other small fry which may be around. Flounders are often available, and snapper blues are a sure thing.

A long time ago a striper weighing about ten pounds taught me that small kingfish make good live bait. He fought hard to get a king off of my hook, but when I had him up to the beach, he decided to let me keep the king. Don't bother trying this idea if snappers are around, as they will eat the kingfish off your hook like corn on the cob. Keep the kingfish and put a small live snapper on your other rig.

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SINKER BOUNCING

THINK LIKE A FISH

by Matt Ahern

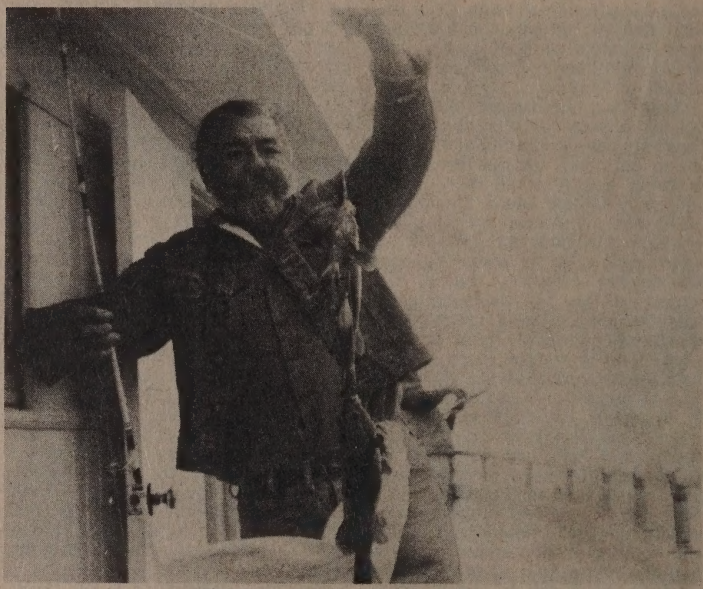
There isn't a fisherman I know who hasn't heard a sinker bouncer say "You gotta think like a fish." This quote is usually made by those who seemingly catch fish without end while nearby buddies watch in silent frustration. For most of these lucky fishermen, this expression is a form of mild braggadocio, often said with great glee in a humorous attempt to jab the needle a little deeper. It is only this fisherman's way of taking full advantage of something that doesn't happen too often to any of us. Nothing wrong with that when done in a spirit of fun.

But are there fishermen who truly "think" like a fish? Are there those of us capable of putting fish in the bucket under the most trying circumstances, fishermen who know exactly what to do under any and all conditions? You bet. I've known several throughout my long and varied fishing life. One, of course, is my life-long grumpy codfishing buddy, Artie Leidecker. So amazed am I at his exploits when the fish refuse to bite that I half expect at any time to see his face sprout cod scales instead of scraggly gray whiskers.

But this week's column isn't about Artie, who incidentally is never overjoyed when I write about him anyway. This column is about a fisherman I knew in the long ago who I truly believe did "think" like a fish.

Because I have always loved party boat fishing with a passion, it is natural for me to feel that the best bottom fishermen I've known have always been associated with these boats. This doesn't mean that those of us who fish from shore, private craft, or skiff are not good fishermen. Perish the thought. I wish I had the expertise of many of these crackerjack fishermen. It means only that I owe party boat fishermen a debt which I can never repay. For they were the ones who taught me the ropes.

I first began party boat fishing back in the late 20s. Around that time my summer days were spent snapper fishing in Sheepshead Bay. But while I thoroughly enjoyed this type of fishing, it was the party boats in the Bay which mesmerized me. The old-time master fishermen in my Brooklyn neighborhood were all party boat fishermen, so I had some knowledge of what it was all about. But knowing how is not doing. Not only was it my dream that one day I would fish aboard these boats, it became an obsession which possessed me all my waking hours—and my sleeping hours too.



Thinking ahead produces fish.

Most of the kids I snapper fished with in the Bay those days would leave for home about 3PM—but not me. Rain or shine, I waited out the return of those party boats. Just to see them enter their slips and watch the weighted-down, happy-go-lucky fishermen step ashore set me to trembling. And make no mistake about it, those fishermen were weighed down with fish. Fluke, sea bass, porgies, blackfish, you name it, all were brought ashore in quantities seldom seen today.

The Au Revoir, Sylph, and Giralda were the huge fishing yachts I remember well. The smaller vessels: Glory, Effort, Effort II, Effort III, Whitby, Bijou, Sunshine, Carrie D, Elmar, Sea Pigeon, R C Lundy, and Dora I still recall. Skippers such as Dave and Jake Martin, Fred Wrege, Joe Ecock, Bill Stephens, and Gus Rau are the outstanding captains of my memory. There were many more which time has now dimmed. But I'll tell you one thing: never shall we see their like again.

If I were lucky, I might slip aboard in the midst of the hubbub as the boats arrived at the dock. And if I were luckier still, I might see several passengers cleaning their catch in the stern. For a fish-happy youngster such as me, it was a time to be alive. I just had to get aboard one of those boats.

And eventually, I did.

The first party boat fish I caught were ling. It took no skill at all. Just get the bait on bottom and old greedy-Gus would take it from there. But when it came time to catch other bottom feeders such as fluke, sea bass, blacks, and porgies, that's when beginners such as me needed advice. The advice itself was easy enough to come by; few party boat regulars would refuse a request for aid; and there was always the mate or skipper to lend a hand.

But learning the finer points of the game, those bits of information that sometimes made all the difference between an excellent catch and one that was mediocre, these were harder to come by.

But I was lucky in those days. I had help from such master fishermen known as Big Red and Big Olaf, plus my friend Matt Smith, and many others whose names I never knew. But it was a fisherman known to all

aboard the old Rose R II as Papa Fritz who was the first to make me aware that there was more to fishing than meets the eye.

Papa Fritz had a heavy German accent and one had to be around him awhile to fully grasp what he said. He also had a keen sense of humor—and he was constantly singing. No matter what the day brought fish-wise: good, bad, or indifferent, Papa Fritz had a song to fit the occasion. I'm sure he made them up as he went along, for I don't recall ever hearing the same song twice. He also had a song called "The Little Girl in Blue" which was in great demand by his fellow passengers, but which he would never sing if I were aboard. "Such a song a boy should not hear, fellers" was his stock reply.

Well, anyway, one particular day we were fluke fishing off Sandy Hook and as usual when we fished that area, there was no end to the fluke. Hit bottom, jig once or twice, and lift. On good days, it was no trick at all to catch 40 or more good-sized fish. Those fluke known today as throwbacks were extremely rare then. We seldom caught them and when one did happen to come up, it was immediately cut up for bait, for nothing catches ocean fluke as well as another piece of fluke in combination with a two-inch killie.

As I say, we were doing the usual job on the fluke that day, but along about ten o'clock, the fishing suddenly stopped. Here and there a fluke would come over the rail, but for all general purposes there were no fluke. It seemed as if a huge curtain had descended, separating us from the fish.

The skipper scratched his head and began to make various drifts throughout the area—inshore, offshore. But it didn't make a bit of difference: those fluke absolutely refused to bite.

As the powers-that-be would have it, I was fishing alongside Papa Fritz that day. But as good a fisherman as Papa Fritz was, he too suffered along with the rest of us.

I quickly became bored. "I guess that's it, Papa," I said during the middle of a fruitless drift. "Can't catch 'em all the time."

"By golly, Marty boy, those fish are down there. Think, boy, think!"

"What's to think about," I answered. "If the fish don't want to bite, they don't want to bite."

Papa Fritz said nothing more, but I noticed he had stopped singing and appeared deep in thought. Several minutes later he nodded his head emphatically as if he'd been in debate with himself. He then opened his tackle bag and brought forth an array of hooks, hardware, and assorted items, most of which I'd never known existed until then. His pawing and searching seemed centered on his glut of hooks which were contained in book form, each transparent "page" holding a particular type of hook. He flipped these pages until he arrived at what he wanted.

"Now we see, Marty," he said, holding out the hook for my inspection.

What I saw was in reality two Chestertown flounder hooks, one the common long-shank, and the other the same except that it was in regular-shank form. This shorter hook was soldered onto the shank of the longer one. I knew enough about fishing to know that you didn't use flounder hooks for fluke—at least that's what I thought at the time. And I told him so.

"Hush now, lad. You have much to learn. Now be a good boy and go to the bait tub and bring me the smallest killies you can find. The smallest, mind you."

I returned with a dozen or so small killies and handed them over, whereupon Papa wrapped them in a dampened rag, leaving out the two he would use for bait. In the time I had spent pawing through the bait tub, he had discarded the 4/0 Sproat hook fishermen used for fluke those days. He had also replaced the three-foot leader with one a foot shorter.

He impaled a killie on each hook in the manner which we always fished this bait: through the eyes. He lowered the rig, took in the slack, and began to jig with short, slow lifts of the rod. In less time than it takes for me to tell you, he had a fluke. Reeling slowly to compensate for the small hooks, he brought the fluke to the surface and with much care lifted it over the rail.

"Quick, lad! Before the rush. Bring more killies."

And there was a rush as soon as the other fishermen became aware of what Papa Fritz was doing. But there was one thing lacking. None had that necessary homemade rig. Fish were caught on small killies by most everyone as I recall, but it was Papa Fritz who outfished everybody on board. The supply of small killies quickly disappeared and when it did, we were all back to poor fishing again.

On the way in, Papa Fritz explained that because he was sure those fluke were there, there could be only one thing wrong. The fish had gone off their feed for reasons we'll never know, he said, but he felt certain they could be tempted with smaller baits. But those baits had to be presented in a slow, cautious manner. If you made it difficult for fussy fluke to grab your bait, they would pass it up. He used the light tandem hook rig to match the small killies. "Always make it easy for the fish," he told me. "Then you'll make it easy for yourself."

He then added the most important piece of advice: "Think like a fish, Marty boy. Always."

Now you know why I believe the best fishermen are those who regularly fish aboard party boats.

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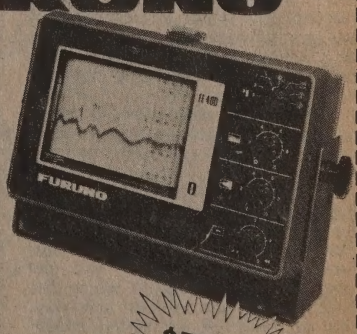

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OUTBOARDS IN THE BRINE

by Bob Whittier

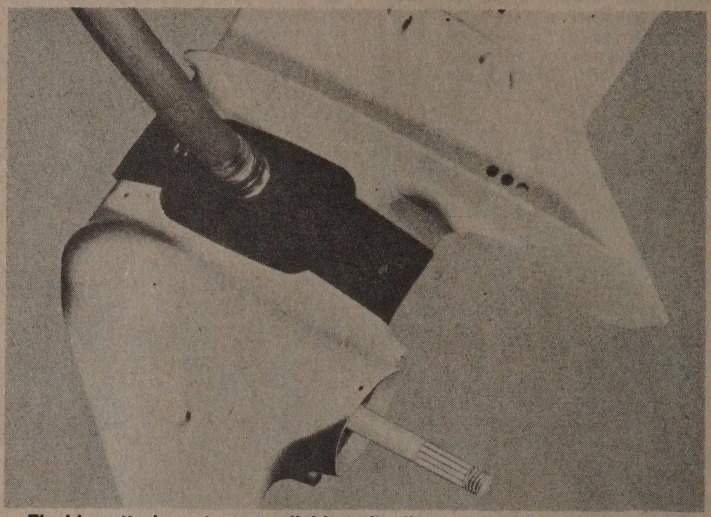
If all the nonsense people have spouted about caring for outboard motors used in saltwater were collected and put into book form, the resulting volume would be about as hefty as Tolstoy's "War and Peace."

A few tidbits of nonsense we've encountered over the years will give you an idea of how weird some of the saltwater care notions can be. We once knew a chap who insisted that one should flush a new outboard motor in a barrel full of Coca-Cola. Claimed the motor's running heat would cause the Coke to deposit a corrosion-resisting skin on the surfaces of the motor's cooling system!

And we've encountered any number of people who have insisted that one should moor one's boat with the outboard motor's lower unit down in the water, never tilted up. Claimed this would keep the cooling system filled with water, exclude the air with its oxygen and thus prevent corrosion. We pointed out that a modern outboard's cooling system would drain anyway due to air coming in through the exhaust back pressure vent hole that is built-in to make starting more dependable. They refused to believe us.

Enough. Let's concentrate on real facts. Old outboards suffered badly from saltwater because it rusted cast iron cylinder block cooling passages. Modern outboard have die-cast aluminum cylinder blocks. All internal aluminum surfaces that contact cooling water are factory-treated to keep salt corrosion to a minimum. While there's no reason for not flushing your motor in freshwater if you can conveniently do so, if you can't manage to do it there is no need to lay awake nights worrying that your motor is "rusting" out.

Flushing a motor used to mean manhandling it up and into a barrel full of water. Today one can buy from boat and motor supply stores a flushing belt or nozzle to fit one's particular make and model of outboard. This device connects a garden hose to the motor's cooling water intake openings. With it, you can flush the motor easily while the trailered boat sits in your driveway. You can even use a flushing attachment to test-run the motor at idling speed before departing on a trip, to make sure the battery is full of juice, the fuel system clean and the remote controls adjusted and functioning properly.



Flushing attachments are available to fit all popular makes of outboards.

If you moor or dock your boat and can't flush after each day's use, at least leave the boat with the lower unit out of water. When a lower unit is left immersed, damage can take place not because of "rusting" but because of electrolysis between the different metals in the assembly, as they sit and soak in electricity-conducting saltwater. Also, minute marine creatures can enter the small intake water openings, even passing through fairly fine screens. Then they can attach themselves to the internal surfaces of the cooling water passages below the waterline, grow, and perhaps eventually stop water flow and make the motor overheat.

Although modern outboards have snug hoods that exclude most spray when under way, there is always an opening somewhere to admit air to the carburetor. Often you will find such an opening in some obscure place such as under the tilting handle, or at the very lower-most part of the hood. Air rushing into the carburetor can pick up saltwater spray and carry it inside the hood. There it will deposit on the many fine, small parts that make up a sophisticated motor's carburetor, ignition and speed control systems. Left there long enough, it can cause corrosion to small but very vital parts.

So it's a good idea to remove the hood fairly often and rinse the motor down with a garden hose set to a moderately fine spray. A little fresh water won't hurt anything. Just don't play the stream directly into the carburetor air intake. If the layout of your motor makes it possible and it seems wise, stuff a clean rag into the air intake to exclude water. If, despite your precautions, you think you might have gotten water into the carb, pull the motor over several times with the starter rope to clear it, then run it at an idle for a few minutes to drive out any small amount of water that might have entered.

A fine idea is to spray all the small levers and connections inside the hood with WD-40 or other water-repelling, corrosion-inhibiting product sold in a spray or aerosol can.

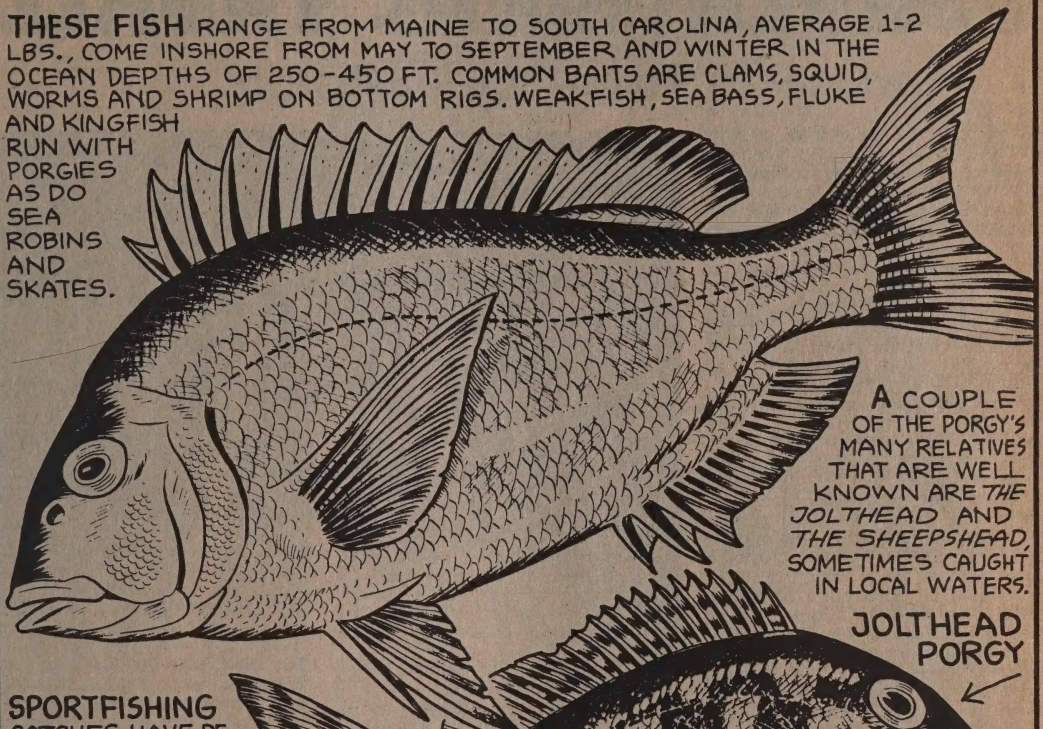
Equally wise is the practice of waxing a motor's exterior with a good automotive or boat wax. Especially if there is chrome trim, this can pay off handsomely in much longer life for the finish and trim. Several times each season, put a shot of suitable grease into all nipples to be found on the motor's shift levers, tilt and turn pivots and remote steering connections. At start and end of a season, remove the propeller and coat its shaft and splines with waterproof grease. A little simple care can pay off handsomely in prolonged motor life and dependability.

POPULAR PORGIES

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE PORGY OF THE NORTHEAST IS AN IMPORTANT SUMMER RECREATIONAL FISH, VERY POPULAR WITH BOTTOM FISHERMEN. ALSO AN IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL FISH – 30 MILLION POUNDS IN THE MARKET. IT IS CALLED "*SCUP*" BY THE PROS.

THESE FISH RANGE FROM MAINE TO SOUTH CAROLINA, AVERAGE 1-2 LBS., COME INSHORE FROM MAY TO SEPTEMBER AND WINTER IN THE OCEAN DEPTHS OF 250-450 FT. COMMON BAITS ARE CLAMS, SQUID, WORMS AND SHRIMP ON BOTTOM RIGS. WEAKFISH, SEA BASS, FLUKE AND KINGFISH RUN WITH PORGIES AS DO SEA ROBINS AND SKATES.



A COUPLE OF THE PORGY'S MANY RELATIVES THAT ARE WELL KNOWN ARE *THE JOLTHEAD* AND *THE SHEEPSHEAD*, SOMETIMES CAUGHT IN LOCAL WATERS.

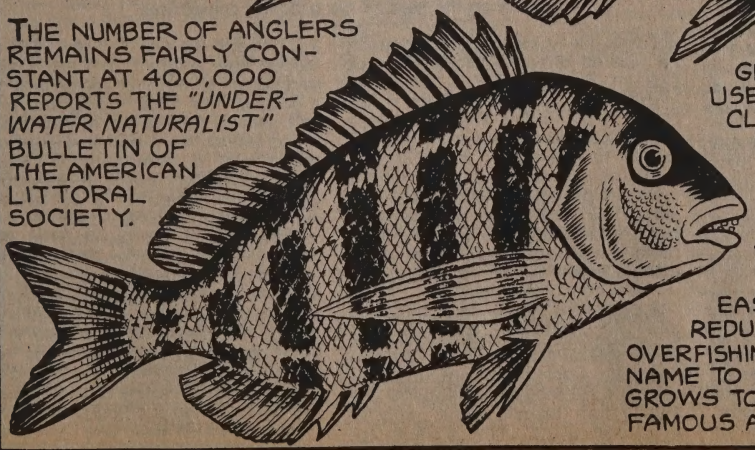
SPORTFISHING CATCHES HAVE DECREASED DRASTICALLY DURING THE LAST TWO DECADES:

1960	26.6 MILLION LBS.
1965	14.4 MIL. LBS.
1970	4.4 MIL. LBS.
1974	6.1 MIL. LBS.

THE NUMBER OF ANGLERS REMAINS FAIRLY CONSTANT AT 400,000 REPORTS THE "*UNDERWATER NATURALIST*" BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY.

JOLTHEAD PORGY

JOLTHEADS ARE A FISH OF THE WEST INDIES. GETS TO 2 FT., 8-10 LBS. USES ITS HEAD TO "*JOLT*" CLAMS AND MOLLUSKS LOOSE FROM THEIR ATTACHMENTS.



THE SHEEPSHEAD PORGY

ONCE A FAVORITE EAST COAST FISH WAS REDUCED TO A RARITY BY OVERFISHING AFTER GIVING ITS NAME TO SHEEPSHEAD BAY. GROWS TO 3 FT. AND 25 LBS. FAMOUS AS A BAIT STEALER.

ON THE MARKET:

CONVENTIONAL TACKLE

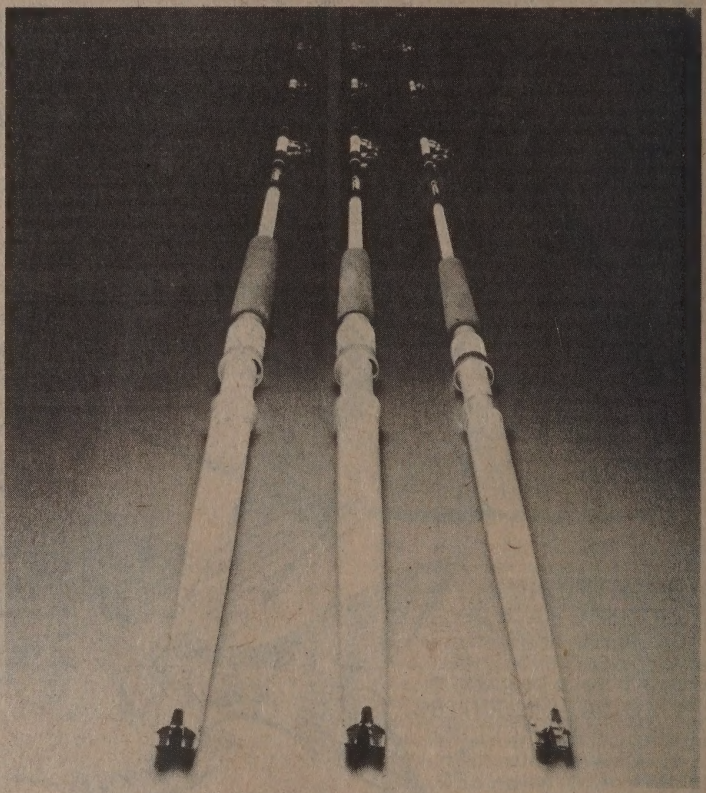
Part Two — *by Al Ristori*

While spinning, baitcasting, and fly enthusiasts are very fussy about the slightest variation in action and components in their rods, most conventional anglers are "meat and potatoes" types who can get along with a wide variety of actions. The balancing of tackle is not nearly as important here as in the other categories, providing that you're not doing any serious casting. Common sense will dictate most choices. A very light rod is indicated for bay fishing where light sinkers are used, but a good deal of backbone is necessary in any rod used for offshore bottom fishing—even if the quarry isn't any larger than what you're catching in the bays.

Most boat rods have one-piece blanks with detachable butts—usually of wood. Big game rods used to have wooden butts, but frequent breakage has resulted in a shift to solid aluminum or glass butts on better rods. The AFTCO Unibutt is now particularly popular. Very few national manufacturers still make conventional surf rods (usually 10 to 12 feet). Most are now custom-built in one-piece by local tackle shops.

Aluminum oxide guides have just about taken over in spinning and baitcasting and are being seen more often on conventional rods. However, the less expensive stainless steel guides still dominate this field. Though some anglers have reported good success with high quality aluminum oxide guides, the best bet for wire line fishing still seems to be tungsten carbide (carboloy). Regular stainless steel guides will be quickly grooved by wire line. Make sure any rod you buy has good wrappings on the guides. Roller guides are a must in heavy big game fishing, and can be helpful in many other areas. However, only buy rods with first quality rollers—and remember to spray them regularly in order to keep them rolling.

While there are advantages to the new "exotic" materials in terms of conventional rod building, they usually aren't as great as is the case in other categories. Rod weight isn't as great a factor where casting isn't of prime importance, and isn't as noticeable when you're casting in two-handed fashion. Furthermore, the large quantity of graphite necessary in conventional rods makes the few choices available very expensive. Fenwick does provide a complete series of graphite big game rods. If not available at local dealers, they can be ordered direct from the Fenwick Custom Rod Shop, P.O. Box 729, Westminster, California 92683. A few other firms make some graphite composite conventional rods. When it comes to fiberglass, most anglers would do best to spend a few dollars more and get a good hollow glass rod. Solids are very heavy and durable, but are more suitable as party boat rentals—where the ability to withstand abuse is the prime requisite.



Kunnan big gamers are graphite composites.

WHAT'S NEW

Fenwick provides a complete series of Fenglass big game rods in addition to the special graphite line. The new Fenglass Pacificstiks include five conventional models with yellow rod shafts and brown Hand Hugger synthetic grips. The guides are hard-chromed and the tiptops carboloy. Though the one 6½' and four 7' models are designed for West Coast party boat fishing, they should also do a good job for local jigging and live bait fishing. One of the few national brand conventional surf sticks left on the market is Fenwick's 10' PSU-1208C. Fitted with heavy duty ceramic guides, it's rated for 8 to 16 oz. sinkers and 20 to 50 lb. lines.

Daiwa has a big selection in the Sealine fiberglass series. New models include the SL-33HRG (rated for 30-60 lb. lines and carrying Daiwa's exclusive Dialoy guides) and SL-43HRG (40-80 lb. lines—AFTCO rollers) - both "Poor man's big game rods" of 6' 8". Good wire line rods are hard to come by, but there are four Sealines. The SL-71LC and SL-72LC are 6½ and 7 footers which will take 20-40 lb. lines. All feature carboloy guides. The

Tournament T.T.W. series features powerful fast taper actions with shafts extending through the handle to the butt. The blanks are of triple-wall construction. Daiwa's Tournament IGFA section comes with either regular handles or AFTCO Unibutts, and the 130 lb. and unlimited models also are available with the AFTCO Uni-Bent butt.

Shakespeare's new black Super Stik trolling series utilizes Ugly Stik blanks with an inner spiral of graphite fibers and an outer layer of butt-to-tip fiberglass fibers. Models range from 20 lb. to unlimited, and all have detachable AFTCO butts with a leatherette foregrip. Somewhat less expensive are the fiberglass Power Stik IGFA trolling rods. There are also six Ugly Stik boat rods in the 20 and 20 lb. classes, and the new Sigma lineup includes two 6½ ft. 20 and 30 lb. class rods.

Lew Childre is featuring the new S.I.C. silicon carbide guides and AFTCO Unibutts on the Speed Stick trolling series. Three foot guides are used to prevent side-to-side loosening and new grips are also featured on these rods. Though Craig Childre insists that silicon carbide has excellent heat dissipation qualities, he is bowing to public demand and using AFTCO Big Foot roller tops on rods from 50 lb. up. The Fiberglass Launcher series includes the SU-210 two piece heavy duty conventional surf rod with aluminum oxide guides and Fuji FPS reel seat.

Berkley has a good selection of boat rods in the graphite /glass Bounty Hunter series. An even larger selection is provided in the Gray and Buccaneer saltwater lines. Lamiglas has no graphite conventionals, but there are quite a few live bait rods in fiberglass and 6½ and 7½ foot boat rods in S-Glass. The IGFA trolling series ranges from 20 to 130 lb. and features triple hand-wraps on all guides. Olympic has added a new boat rod to the 7000 series. The 7465FG is a 6½' one piece model with white ceramic guides and a medium action.

Eagle Claw's new Select rod line includes the SECH613 in 6½ and 7 foot heavy action versions, while the Bob Stephenson series includes the BSTH413 6½ ft. one piece trolling rod with aluminum oxide guides. The popularly priced Denco Super 4 series has added 5½ and 6 foot versions of the DNTH313, a one piece heavy action model with ceramic guides. That series features the new Nylock guide wraps. Garcia features several boat rods in the Big Blue and Gamefish lines. Three one piece roller guide trolling models are 6-3/4 feet with foam-light grips, and cover the 30, 50, and 80 lb. classes.

Kunnan has an excellent Boatmaster's Choice series of graphite composites with diamond-wrapped butts and foam grips. The Big Gamers are graphite composite one-piece trolling rods with AFTCO roller guides that are both under- and over-wrapped—plus AFTCO Unibutts. St. Croix has a large selection of hollow fiberglass rods and many more solids. The IGFA trolling series features black Veltex foregrips and AFTCO aluminum handles. Pflueger has a new IGFA Custom trolling rod series covering the 20 to 130 lb. classes. AFTCO roller guides and Unibutts are featured.

Though this article covers only national manufacturers, it's important to keep in mind that some of the finest conventional rods around are made by custom tackle shops. Indeed, some expand beyond their local areas via advertising and appearances at shows—and eventually establish a regional reputation. Among these are such well-known names as Sea Isle in Freeport, Altenkirch in Shinnecock, Jack Blades in Atlantic City, and MV Tackle in Brielle. Those who enjoy building their own rods can buy blanks made by such reputable firms as Shakespeare, Fenwick, Lamiglas, Lew Childre, J. Lee Cuddy, and Dynaflex.

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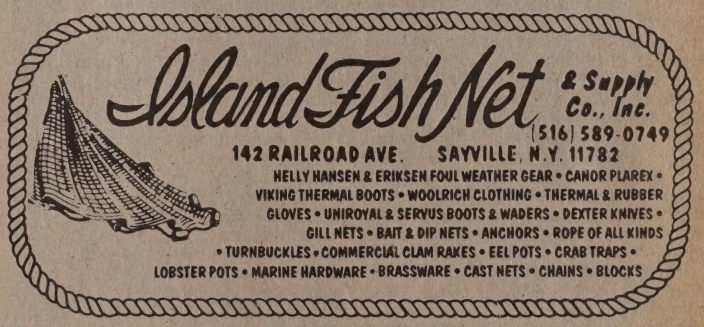
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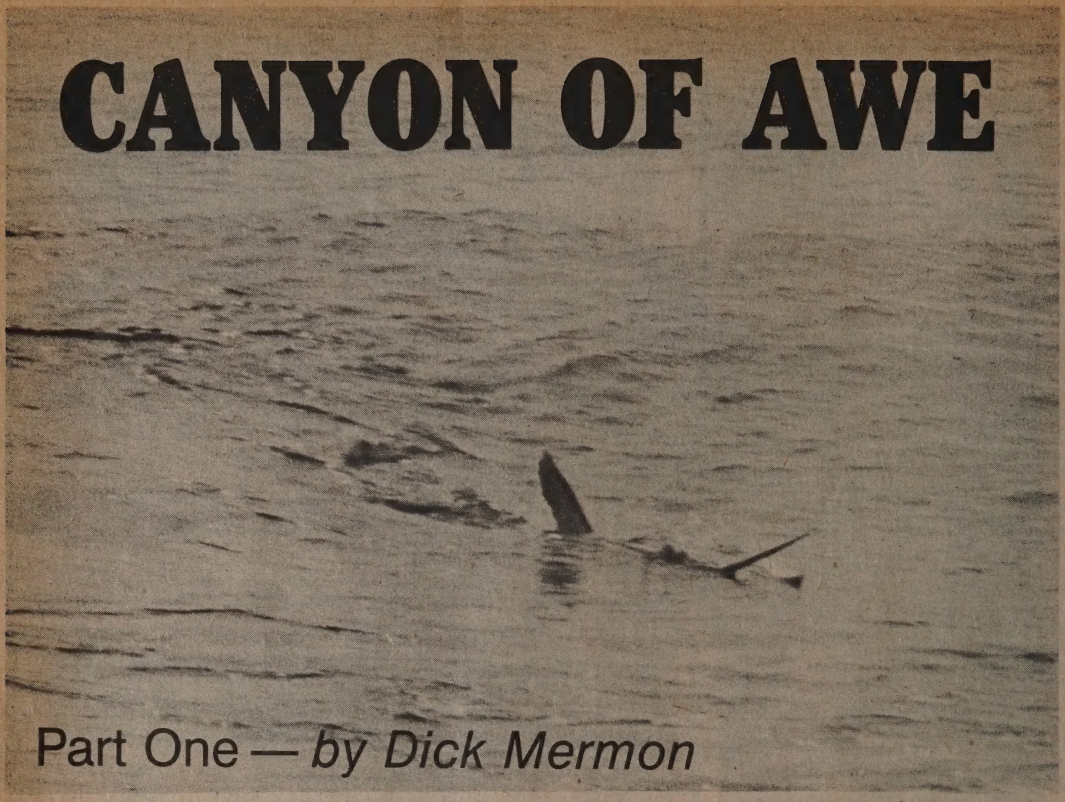


Part One — *by Dick Mermon*

A marlin rising to a trolled bait is a frequent occurrence in Canyon territory.

Within the reach of every angler lies an awe-inspiring territory that has virtually been untapped until recent years. Approximately 100 nautical miles southeast of the New York Bight, which is the entranceway to New York City by water, lies a fishing world of splendor, amazement, and charisma. In the past, commercial fishermen only briefly talked of the location, where lobsters grew to monster size and tilefish big enough to eat them in one gulp. As the stories grew, so did the sport fishermen's interest, whereby they discovered through further investigation an intriguing new subterranean fishing world known as the "Hudson Canyon."

During those bygone days, it was said the only way to find this magnificent locale was to follow your nose and the floating fifty-five gallon drums. Fishing boats at that period of time were not sufficently equipped for such distant runs, or overnight ventures. Hence, extra petrol was carried in large mtal containers and discarded overboard when empty on the trip out. This procedure guaranteed enough gasoline for a full day's activity of trolling or drifting and a safe return to the home port. Almost all contemporary sport fishing vessels are fitted with oversized fuel tanks or are replaced with ones that are suitable in capacity, especially after an angler has tasted the sweetness of a successful canyon trip.

The Hudson Canyon has intrigued so vast a number of fishermen in the past four years that even anglers lacking the required fuel capacity are dangerously carrying raw gasoline in ten-gallon plastic jugs. This procedure may be dependable in thought, but to tie empty containers onto the bowrail after use is not only asking for trouble, but downright unmindful. These drained and sealed jugs, which resemble wash hanging from a clothesline, swaying in the breeze, are working time bombs ready to be ignited by the direct sunlight.

Carelessness, coerced by the Canyon's call often overshadows anglers' common sense. As in all occasions, one must sacrifice something in order to obtain another. There is no perfect combination, especially in boats. Thus a fisherman seeking speed, fuel economy, and comfort in one unit is a dreamer and must only accept two points out of three. Intermediate boats like Mako 25's or Bertram's 25 to 31 footers have speed to reach the offshore grounds quickly, but lack comfort in wind-swept seas.

On the other hand, the big boys of the sport fishing fleet made by Hatteras, Pacemaker, Chris Craft, and Harris offer opulence in travel, with diesel engines for fuel thrift, but are slightly slower in pace. The mosquito size boats must choose their angling days, or run like the blazes, for weather plays a mean game of chance when offshore and can jolt them like corks in a whiskey bottle. Foolishness comes into play mainly when anglers exploit the Canyon in outboards without any type of communications. The thought of journeying slightly under 100 miles into the open ocean and not having proper safety equipment aboard is lunacy. These fishermen may have immense confidence in their ability and craft, but odds keep lowering each time a run as this is made and sooner or later the sea gains an edge. There is no place in the Hudson Canyon for small boats, nor amateurs with visions of glorious achievements. Anglers of this nature are fools with clouded minds of super glories that lie within the gully's mystic waters.

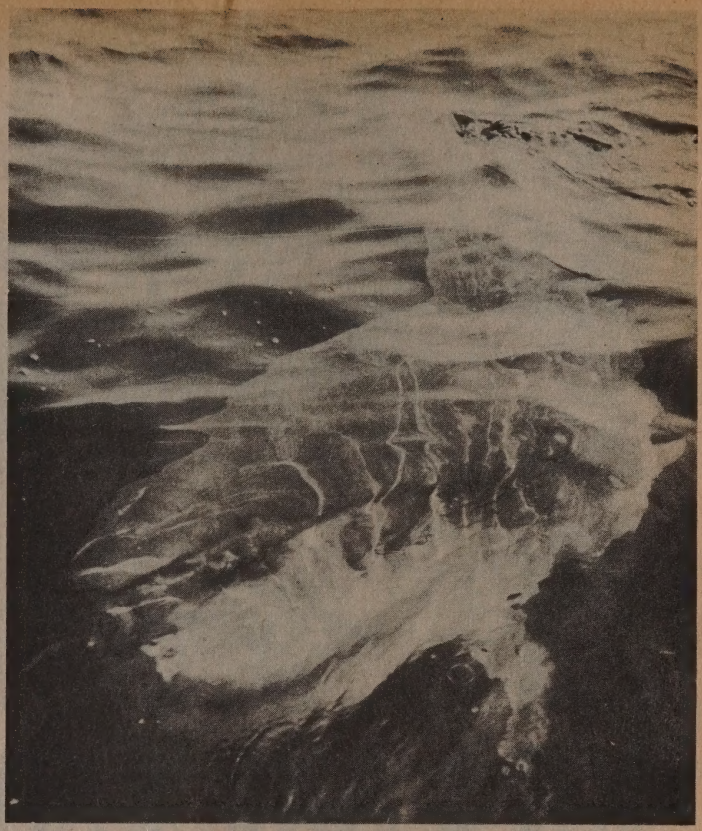
The theory behind the Hudson Canyon's fertileness is its geographic location off Long Island's mainland and New Jersey with its Baltimore Canyon. An underwater gorge, extending outward from the New York Bight to the Continental Shelf was formed thousands of years ago by a main flow of the Hudson River. Today, it is a primary shipping lane for New York Harbor, called the Ambrose Channel. The unseen but chartered river bottom starts on a 92

mile stretch at the Ambrose Tower, cutting zigzaggedly southward along New Jersey's coast, then sharply veers southeasterly, widening and deepening gradually. An elongated narrow curve, located near the subterranean valley's end is the first notable dropoff which is called "the tongue." Its plunge is almost a sheer pitch from 48 fathoms into 133. Five miles further into the tongue a second depression is reached, toppling from 181 fathoms into 410 fathoms. And if one considers there are six feet to every fathom, that is deep. The widest point of this cleft extends some six nautical miles where it dissipates into the vast canyon. At this connecting point, the valley becomes slightly narrow but begins its final descent from 510 fathoms into 900 and then pours into the blackness of Jones and Babylon Valleys.

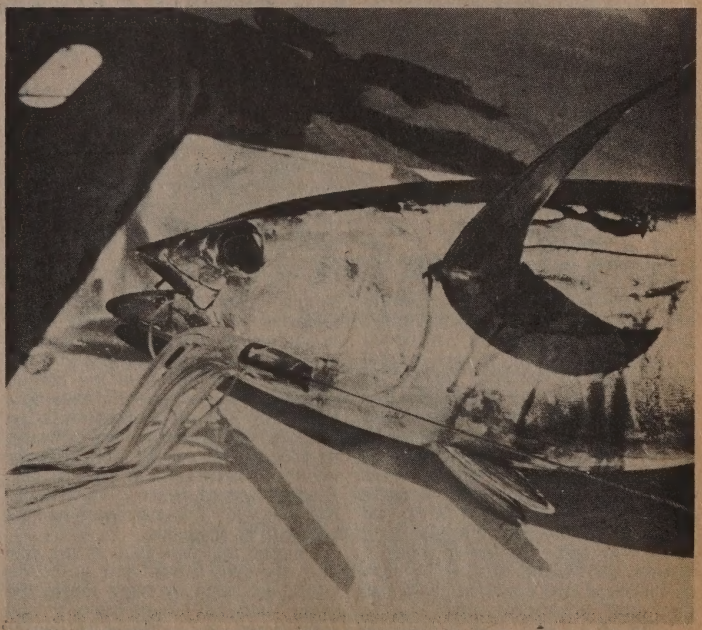
Mystery, intrigue, beauty, and adventure are what draws anglers to the Hudson Canyon, but fishing actually begins prior to the area itself. About thirty miles north of the curved depression, in some 200 ft. of water, barely bordering the valley shelf and just outside the imaginary line is a small rise where once an exploratory platform stood. In its heyday, the structure was called the "Texas Tower," but no longer is this edifice visible. Hence, the lump must now be pinpointed by compass and depth recorder, or Loran readings.

At the imaginary tower, one ushers into a field of mystic sensation, similar to passing from the known into the unknown; sort of a step beyond. Here, there is a feeling that something is about to happen, a point where the mystery, beauty, and suspense all combine, weighing heavy on one's mind. The first noticeable factor is weather conditions, which change drastically from bad to good, or vice versa. What was five miles back is now different. Rolling or wind-swept seas shift into calmness, flattening to a mere long rise. Fog that blanketed the trip out suddenly dissipates, breaking into brilliant sunlight, leaving behind a huge vertical curtain. Situations, on the other hand, can be reversed. Within an hour's time, a calm sea can give way to instant squalls. Sedate seas turn suddenly into mountains of twenty foot rollers or torrents of rain patches dimple the flat heave. Anglers who have overnighted in the Canyon will testify to these sudden changes and weird weather conditions, whereby one area is calm and ten miles in either direction find heavy rolling circumstances. It is Nature's playground and anglers must play by her rules and with her ball.

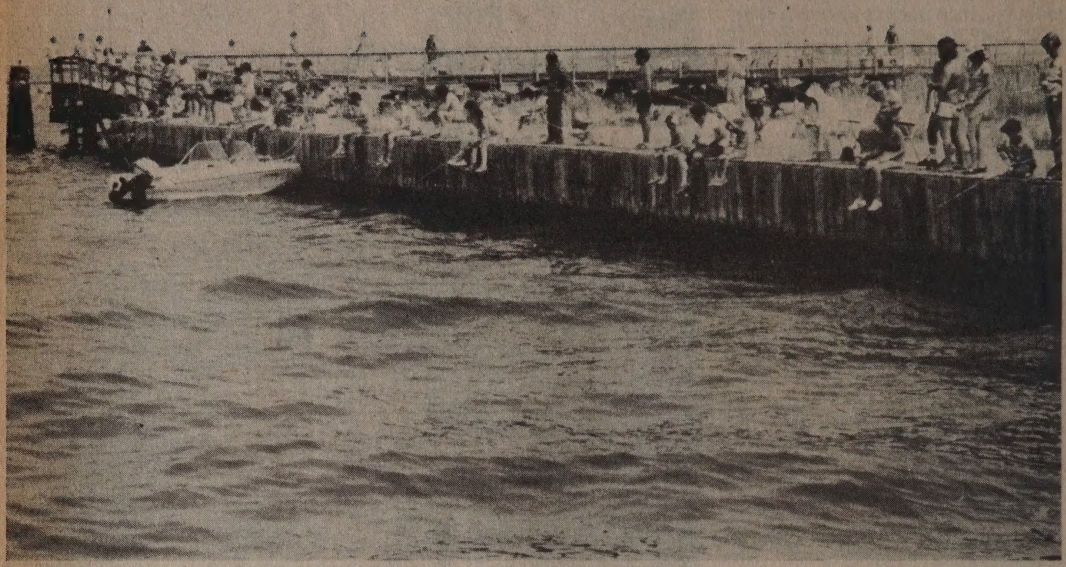
Water coloration is most distinguished from a shore line murky green to a blue-green and finally into a pronounced deep blue hue. This is what makes the canyon so intriguing and beautiful. The combination of clarity and ice-blue color creates a veil of suspense.



An ocean sunfish sporting a huge, tailless body lumbers along in the Gulf Stream currents.



This yellowfin tuna struck a "Kona Head" lure at the distant Hudson Canyon.



KIDS AND SNAPPERS

by Gerald Hahn

Of all species, I had probably given the least thought over the years to snappers; that is, until some friends asked me to take their six-year-old son fishing. Neither he nor they had ever fished before.

Should we go for flounders, I wondered? A youngster, like Ritchie should find them pretty easy to catch from a town dock. But it was mid-summer and hits would be few and far between. Remembering my own son's relatively short concentration span when he was Ritchie's age, I thought a little harder. Although flounders had certainly been a great introduction to saltwater fishing for David in June, later on he became restless because there were fewer flatfish around. In fact, he hardly fished again that summer, that is, until the snappers arrived. Perhaps a boat would be better, I thought, remembering how excited David had been a year later on his first codfishing trip. He would hook a hanger, and I would reel it in. As soon as the large cod surfaced, he'd call out, "Jeff" instead of "gaff."

"Ritchie," I said, "we're going to fish for snappers!" Ritchie was ready to go for anything—snappers, sharks, whales, you name it.

His parents had inadvertently bought the best kind of tackle for a first trip out: an ultra-light, spin-cast outfit they had picked up the previous summer in Vermont and never used. Manufacturers report that more spin cast tackle is sold in the U.S. than any other type of fishing tackle, probably because it is the simplest gear for a child to handle. With its closed-face reel, no bail to manipulate, and its simple pushbutton mechanism for releasing line, a youngster can learn to cast well in short order. Moreover, with an ultra-light, 5' rod and 4 lb. test, a child can maneuver the rod and delight in the excitement of playing a small fish. For although spin casting tackle is used primarily for freshwater fishing, it is perfect for snapper fishing in saltwater. On his first day, Ritchie would learn two fishing methods with this gear: working bait and casting artificials.

I picked up some bait on the way and my own ultra-light spinning outfit, and soon we were facing the small, back-bay inlet where I had introduced my son to saltwater fishing. It was early August, and schools of small snappers occasionally textured the water's glassy surface. I rigged up Ritchie's rod for bait first, tying a 3½", long-shanked snapper hook on an 8" leader to the fishing line with an improved clinch knot. For extra security, I doubled the line before tying it. A pair of split shots on the leader and a bobber about 15" above, and Ritchie was almost set.

"What's those?" he asked, as I impaled a thawed-out baitfish on his hook. "Spearing," I answered, as I hooked it through the mouth, out the gill cover, and near the tail. "Snappers like to eat these."

It took Ritchie a few tries before he was able to coordinate his movements properly. Like most beginners, he tended to ignore the rod tip at first and wondered why the tangled line would not move when he tried to cast. After managing his first good cast, though, Ritchie did remember to stop the bait by pressing the trigger again, and to engage the reel by cranking the handle. But before I could praise him for this, he shouted excitedly, "Got one!" and reeled in his first snapper the way kids do everything—at top speed. I was grateful he had not torn the snapper from the hook. When he brought the fish in, however, he was

disappointed by its size and perplexed at the exchange—a 6" snapper for a 4" spearing; but seeing other people catching them, he was soon requesting more bait. "By September, some of these fish will weigh close to a pound," I told him. "We'll come back for them then." Ignoring this, Ritchie was by now concentrating on his bobber. As soon as it tremored, he knew he had another snapper on.

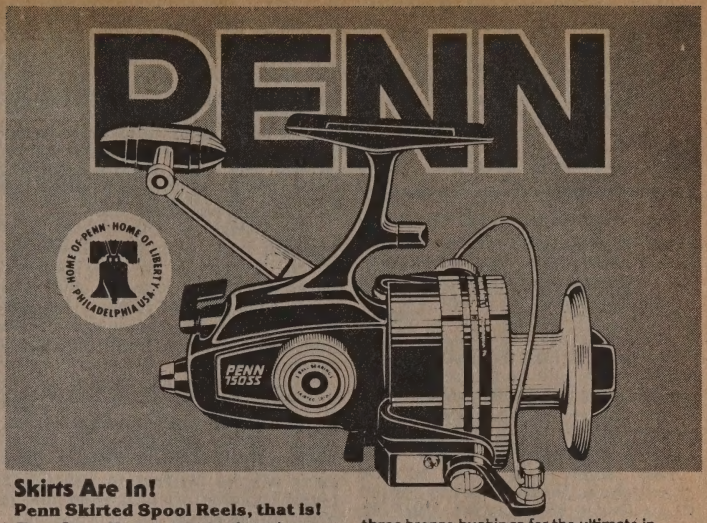
After catching his share this way and beginning to lose interest, I said to Ritchie, "Now, we're going to fool the snappers." "How?" he perked up. "We're not going to use bait." I clipped the rig and replaced it with a Sidewinder lure. Almost any metal lure of around 1/4 to 1/2 oz. will do: Hopkins, Kastmaster, Sprite, etc. In fact, I once saw a youngster catch a bucketful of snappers on a red-and-white Daredevil spoon. Small lead-head bucktails tipped with a tiny morsel of squid or worm will also attract snappers. I tied the lure to the doubled fishing line, once again with an improved clinch knot.

Since Ritchie could cast fairly well by now, the next step was to show him how to work the lure. "If you reel in fairly fast, the snappers will think that your piece of metal is a spearing trying to get away, and they'll grab it." Fascinated by the idea, Ritchie gave it a few tries. After awhile, he learned to let the lure settle a bit before retrieving it. And when he caught his first snapper on an artificial, he was proud of his achievement and intrigued, the way adults are, by the difference between baitfishing and casting lures.

Pretty soon, I became as excited as Ritchie. I rigged up my rod with a lure, as well, and caught a few snappers before it was time to leave. On the way back, I stopped off at a fish store and showed Ritchie a 10 lb. chopper. "When snappers grow up, they look like this." He was impressed and ready to go for them.

Actually, I had been aching to go out that day on a boat for blues. I was anxious that the fishing would be a dud for Ritchie, especially if nothing was in. But I am glad the snappers saved the day, for Ritchie's sake and mine. I had almost forgotten that the scaled-down snapper is just as exciting to catch on ultra-light gear as a large blue on heavier tackle. More important, I had introduced a kid to fishing, made him happy, and relived some happy memories, as well. For my responses are no different from Ritchie's; my heart pounded just as his did whenever a fish was caught. In the long run, it makes little difference whether the quarry is a 2 oz. snapper or a 50 lb. cod, on bait or on lures. You either love fishing or you don't.

Since then, I have taken some other youngsters, as well as some adults, on their first fishing trips, and I can tell almost immediately by their responses, whether or not they will pursue fishing again. I'm sure Ritchie will. What are you waiting for? Take a kid snapper fishing!



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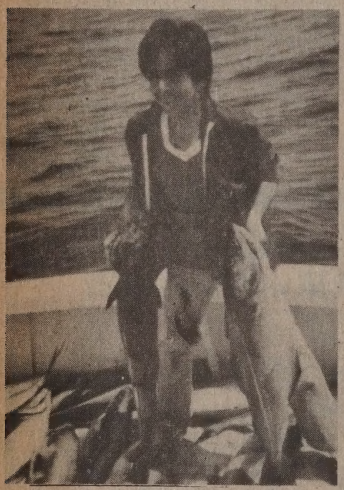
Montauk Report

by Stu Miller

Capt Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** reports that Angelo Santos, Octquio Astosa and Jaun Canacha of the Bronx on July 23rd and 24th tipped the scales with 120 bluefish and 310 lbs. of cod on a **Viking** doubleheader special. On July 26th, Tom Kelly of East Rockaway crammed his sack with 18 cod from 8 to 36 lbs. Also on July 26th Fred from Montauk took the pool fluke in the morning with a 8¼ lb. flattie aboard the **Viking Starship**.

Last week Capt Zah on the charterboat **Mako Express** fished Bruce Grotta who bagged a 272 lb. mako and they also tagged several blue shark. Bruce is from Waterbury CT. The mako took two 15' jumps (a male). On Sunday's trip Zah says that 6 white marlin were all around the boat but none would take a hook. Zah wielding a spinning rod with 20 lb. test and a popping plug had a 75 lb. class white marlin on for 10 minutes which then split the plug after taking several long runs. A big blue marlin beat a frozen chum ball with his bill but the blue would not hook up.



Tony Faso with a pair of 30 lb. class pollack taken aboard the charterboat "Adios" at Block Island.

Capt Mike of the charterboat **Montauk** had a giant mako last week which weighed in at 459 lbs. The beast was on for 1 hr. 15 min. and made 3 magnificent jumps. This was for the Bruce Stevens charter. Mike says there is also some big tigers around now.

The charterboat **Nostalgia II** fishing Saturday off Block Island umbrellaed up 25 6-10 lb. blues for fast Bernie, K.C., Kenny and Dutch of Rocky Point, all of the Galway Anglers. Capt Jerry will be starting to fish Cox's Ledge cod charters next week and is awaiting your call.

Capt Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** tells of good fluking for his 2 half-day trip fluke boat. Keepers are averaging 6 to 10 a man and pools are generally 6 or 7 lb. fish along with a few throwbacks taken in the Rips on sandeels, squid or fish belly. Porgies have been hot and cold with 25 to 30 per man on a good day fishing the Point and Gardiner's. Night bluefishing continues red hot, catches going from 10 to over 20 gorillas a man fishing Cartwright and Block Island for fish 10 to 18 lbs. and a few 20 pounders. Hi hook for the week was 37 slammers. Richie says there has also been a lot of offshore marlin and tuna action for the charter fleet.

Capt Buddy Dorman of the 6 man limit open boat **Waxed** called to say that he's been fishing the Montauk Rips for big porgies. The pool fish is usually around 3 lbs. Bud rates the fishing for his customers as very good, though the numbers are not spectacular as yet. Over a bucket of porgies can be had, says Bud for any fisherman working hard at it. Fish are medium to jumbos and the boat is working at the Point.

Henry at **Star Island Yacht Club** reports that the canyon is just loaded with big fish, that a total of 7,000 lbs. of bigeye tuna was shipped from **Star Island** over the weekend. White marlin are being taken at the Butterfish Hole on eels and green machines. Three swordfish were brought in over the weekend as were many yellowfin tuna, bonito and albies and also lots of big fish were dropped. Six makos were brought in over the weekend from 40 Fathoms. The inshore scene is only fair with some fluke being taken in the North Rips on stripped baits. The porgy fishing has been slow while some weakfish are still being caught around the Light and at the Sub buoy. Herring are now being used at Cartwright for blues. Don't forget that Sept. 12th and 13th, **Star Island Yacht Club** will be holding the 2nd Annual Tuna Tournament. It should be a biggie. Call Henry for details.

Capt Henry Harris of the charterboat **Snapshot V** called to say that on Saturday's trip for George Reming and party, a 213 lb. mako was hooked and landed. The fish took 3 baits offered by Michael Castelana of Old Westbury, Sal Mascara and Sal Sciandra. The fish spit out 2 of the baits and Mike's remained inbedded in the fish's jaw. Mike fought the fish for 1hr. 15 min. before it was boated.

Capt Phil Lewis of the charterboat **Adios** on Thursday had a white marlin hit an umbrella rig which was attached to a downrigger. After a 10 min. tussle, the fish bid farewell. This was off Block Island. Sunday's trip resulted in a hook up and 40 min. battle with a 400 plus lb. giant tuna which eventually popped the line and left everyone breathless.

Capt Joe McBride on the charterboat **My Mate** fished George Wetherall and sons George Jr. and Kevin of Middle Village Sunday and had a 50 lb. white marlin. Aboard the **Mako Express** with Capt Zac Grossman at the wheel, Pete Poggie and party of Bay Shore had 136 lb. mako and 4 blue shark. Aboard the charterboat **Honey Bun** over the weekend they had 2 good makos for Charles Blas and daughter Kathy plus a good catch

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Bill Shelocke, Chris Freiber, Sharon Saltzman and Warren Herrshaft with 25 fluke to 5½ lbs. caught at buoy 43 in Moriches Bay. They left from Silly Lily Fishing Station.

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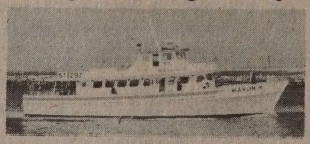

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South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

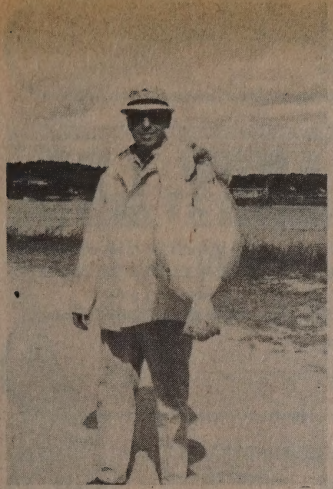
HAMPTON BAYS

John at **Corr's Mariners Cove** reported a catch of 18 keeper fluke for Phil Naylor and his son taken on combo baits of sand eels and spearing with squid. On Saturday, Joe Tatarka of Richmond Hills along with his daughter Helen and sons Raymond and Joe, Jr. returned to the station with 26 keeper fluke. On Sunday, George Treffert, George Jr. and Pat Ciriello took 41 keepers using Salty Dogs and bucktails tipped with squid strips. All of the action has been along the channel edges between the inlet and the bridge.

MORICHES BAY

Al at **Hiway Fishing Station** spoke of good fluking between buoys 39 and 41 with all of the usual baits taking their share of fish. As for the ratio of keepers to shorts, Al noted there are now more keepers around than short fish. Saturday's best catch was made by a party headed by Milo Mistima. They returned with 30 nice keepers. While there were no doormats taken this weekend, Al did weigh in two 7½ lbers. last week. For flounder fans, flatties are still available south of buoy 36 and also near buoy 39. Al weighed in a pair of marlin last week for the South Shore Marlin and Tuna Club boat, Bimini Bum. Both were taken simultaneously southeast of Moriches Inlet in 190' of water. One took a green machine and the other a rigged eel. Each was the first marlin ever for anglers John Cunenin and Bill Kelly. The Bimini Bum is owned by Tony Vaccaro.

Gary at **Silly Lily Fishing Station**



Roger Darrow of Hampton Bays used a killy and squid combo to take this 14 lb. doormat fluke out of Corr's Fishing Station.

said the fluking held up well all week but slowed on the weekend as the tide became too late to benefit anglers. On Thursday, Mr. and Mrs. Kukenis caught the last of the flood and the first of the ebb southwest of buoy 41 and put away 23 keepers along with an equal number of shorts. They used sand eels and squid combos. Gary noted that good fluke action can be found anywhere between buoys 39 and 42 and said that 2 hours on either side of high water has been producing the most fish. Small blues are still in the bay. One boat fishing in the old cut on Sunday totalled 25 small choppers in the 2-3 lb. range on jigs.

John at **Seatuck Cove Fishing Station** in Eastport reported fluking remains steady with average catches ranging from 10-15 keepers per boat. Best action has been in the vicinity of buoy 41. Blueclaw crabs are being taken along with fluke in the area. Frank Stellaccio, Walt Heitmann and Al Eiskamp returned to the marina with 2 dz. blueclaws taken right off the marina as well as 25 fluke including several from 3½ to 4 lbs. The fluke were taken on squid and sand eel combos between buoys 39 and 41.

MASTIC BEACH

Bill at **Stiriz Fishing Station** said the big news in his area is the excellent run of blue claw crabs which has developed in an area stretching from buoy 9 to 17. Catches running upwards of 2 bushels per boat were taken by the sharper crabbers working with both traps and killie rings. As for the fluking, most boats returned with anywhere from 10-15 keepers apiece. Bill suggested fishing buoys 20 thru 27 with sand eel and squid combos for fluke. Still small blues available south of buoy 20 for casters.

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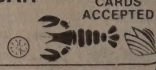

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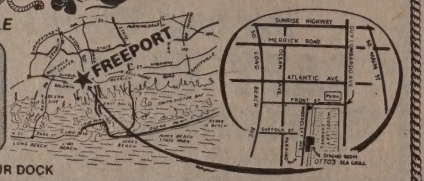

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SAYVILLE

From **Formato's Fishing Station**, Fred reported that the summer run of weakfish continues to improve with fish now being taken along the east line as well as off of Heckscher. Squid strips fished on a high low rig and jelly worms have both been effective on the 2-4 lb. class weaks. Best bet for fluke in the area remains in the vicinity of buoys 15 and 17 at Ocean Beach. Sand eels, spearing and killies all working on the fluke. Fred looked over one catch that came from this area which contained several nice fish in the 3 lb. range.

OAKDALE

Members of the Oakdale Sportsmen's Club held their tuna and billfish tournament this past week with most of the winning fish taken in an area stretching from the Texas tower out to the Hudson Canyon. First place was taken by B. Buchmann who put a 103 lb. yellowfin aboard the Obsession. Howie Langabeer took 2nd with a 73 lb. yellowfin taken aboard the Wide Open. Bruce Bandes wrapped up 3rd place with a 64 lb. yellowfin taken aboard the Special Lady. Largest white marlin of the contest was taken on the Obsession by Mike Plaia at the Texas tower. It weighed 44 lbs.

EAST ISLIP

Mike at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** said fluke remain in good supply from West Channel to the inlet. A few larger fish showing at the inlet. Fishing there during the week, William and Joe Smythe took 20 fluke including a doormat of 9 lbs. 2 oz. on sand eel and squid combos. Offshore, makos were in good supply during the week with the 100' depths south of Fire Island producing fish of 130, 105 and 60 lbs. for Ron Rossi, Lou Liebertruth, Frank Beutuch and Len Cavaluzzi. Mike added that he had received reports of plenty of tuna action in 190' of water over the weekend.

BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** described the fluking from the lighthouse to the inlet as good with larger fish being taken at the inlet. Biggest weighed in during the week was a doormat of 8¾ lbs. Snapper blues and a few weakfish being taken in the lighthouse area on trolled umbrella rigs. Big blues south of Cherry Grove in 90' of water where Aaron and Doris Donner put away a box full of them. The Patchogue Grounds have been hit and miss with the choppers but there have been plenty of bonito, skipjack and bluefish tuna from 90' to 130' of water. Richie Swanson, fishing in 110' of water southeast of the inlet landed a marlin in the 40-50 lb. class on a Hawaiian Eye rigged over a bally hoo. Carl called the crabbing and snapper fishing at the local docks very good and added that a couple small weaks and fluke have been taken at the mouth of the Brightwaters Canal.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the open boat **Casey Lee** had no complaints about the fluke fishing in the bay. He said the number of shorts varies from day to day with one day seeing 50-50 and the next day seeing 3 out of 4 fish being keepers. Best action has been during the last of the flood and the first of the ebb in Snake Hill Channel, West Channel, East Channel and near Sexton Island. Both spearing and sand eels have been effective.

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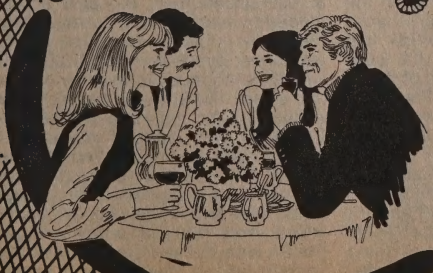

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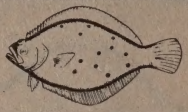

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captain Rod of the open boat **Capt. Rod** said that while fluking was good throughout the week it did slow somewhat over the weekend. Tide conditions will be good again later this week for those looking to cash in on some good fluke action. While there are quite a few shorts being taken, there's been a fair mix of decent sized fish also. Fishing has been spread throughout a large area extending from Ocean Beach down to the inlet. Catch of the week as far as crew and fares were concerned was made at the end of the day Friday when a little puppy was spotted bobbing on the surface near Kismet. The little feller was scooped up in a net by one of the boat's mates and the skipper put out word of the catch over the marine radio. Not 10 minutes after docking, a private boat slid up to the Capt. Rod and its owners were reunited with their pet which had apparently jumped off the boat without anyone being aware of it.

Captain Marty of the **Jib Fleet** said fluking was pretty fair all week with the pool fish each day being in the 3½ lb. range. Killies and strips of fluke belly drifted from West Channel to the bridge have been accounting for steady action. Both the **Jib VI** and **VII** are now sailing full day fluke at 7AM. On the night bluefish trips, fishing has been erratic with Friday witnessing very good fishing on the Patchogue Grounds with blues ranging from 2-6 lbs. Unfortunately, Saturday nigh was not a repeat of Friday.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the open boat **Capt. Bob Joseph** said fluking had been good all week but slowed over the weekend. Best fishing has been found during the last half of the flood at the inlet and at West Channel. The skipper labelled the night bluefishing as hot and cold Friday and Saturday were good examples. Friday night's catch was somewhere in the range of between 3 and 400 choppers from 2-6 lbs., while Saturday's efforts resulted in just a few fish being taken .

Charter boat **Lady Ann** described sthe fluking as pretty good although fishing was off a little on the weekend. During the week, catches varied from 100-150 keepers per trip, while on the weekend numbers were down to between 50-75 keepers. Captain Neil figured that 2 out of every 3 fish taken are now keepers. Sand eels, spearing and squid fished between the bridge and East Island has been the ticket with the last of the flood and first of the ebb being prime time. The skipper also labelled the bluefishing as erratic with catches ranging from 300 choppers on Tuesday to 100 on Friday and down to 30 on Saturday. Bluefishing trips have been limited to nights.

Charter boat **Rendova Island** reported a fair catch of fluke on both Saturday and Sunday fishing the Inlet area with killie and squid combos. On Saturday the boat fished a party from Mattson, Driscoll and DiAmico. On Sunday, a group from Cannon Camera headed by Jim Zehner put away their share of fluke fillets.

BABYLON

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** passed along some of the results from the weekends Babylon Tuna Club's INVITATIONAL MARLIN AND TUNA TOURNAMENT. Largest tuna of the weekend was a 207 lb. bigeye taken aboard the Miss Marion. Largest shark taken was a 730 lb. tiger aboard the Miss Philly while the Born Free copped the billfish division with a 55 lb. white marlin. Participating boats enjoyed plenty of marlin and tuna action and several boats, including the Skimmer, Osprey and the Weasel even managed to put away some hard fighting wahoo. The $5,000 raised from the sale of fish landed by participating boats was the most ever. Thanks to a fine job by auctioneer Jim Parker and B&B Fish, who donated much in the way of time and effort, the Suffolk Chapter of the Assocation for the Help of Retarded Children will benefit greatly. A non-competing boat, the Gemini fished the Canyon overnight and returned with 2 swordfish. Ralph noted that there was lots of marlin action from 120' of water on out. Fellow club members nominated Bob Antolini of the Weasel for a special award recognizing his unique ap-

proach to baiting a marlin. Further inshore plenty of bonito from 60' on out. Offshore anglers looking for the new Yap lures can get them at Augie's next week. At the inlet small bluefish have been keeping umbrella rig trollers busy while fluking has been holding up well stretching fromk West Channel to the inlet.

The crew aboard the Island Park private boat Debra christened Joe Masone's new boat during the weekend's Babylon tournament. On Saturday, a 39 lb. white marlin and a 62 lb. yellowfin were taken at the canyon, while on Sunday fishing near the Texas tower, 14 yellowfins up to 71 lbs. were taken.

LIF subscribers Dave MacBay, Phil Pope and Wayne Rheaume were introduced to shark fishing for the first time aboard Ron Shimborski's Canyon Express. The trio landed a 435 lb. thresher and a 302 lb. tiger fishing south of Fire Island inlet.

The charter boat **Lucy II** reported tough picking off of the Patchogue Grounds on Saturday for a party of Pennsylvania anglers led by Tracy Thompkin. After doing some scouting around, Captain Jack found a school of 3-4 lb. choppers in 75' of water south of the inlet. The party put away 14 of the fish on white umbrellas. Fluking continues good between the Amityville and Babylon cut with the top of outgoing tide resulting in the best scores. About half of the fish being taken are keepers according to the skipper.

LINDENHURST

Mike at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** reported a catch of 10 good sized keepers for Jim Marshall and friends on Saturday. They fished near the lighthouse. Fishing in the same area on Sunday, Bob Macaluso, Bill and Sue Ebberling and Ed Leizerns totalled 20 keepers up to 3 lbs. on killie and squid combos. Felix Gomez fished the Sore Thumb on Saturday and took 7 weaks up to 6 lbs. on jelly worms. Some school bass still remain in the State Channel. Jack Lagrassa, John Norton and Charlie Taylor took 5 schoolies under the Wantagh bridge on clam bellies. Offshore, still some mako action from 120' of water on out along with tuna, marlin, bonito and skipjack.

AMITYVILLE

From **George Combs Bait and Tackle** came word of super offshore action. Marlin and tuna kept boatmen busy over the weekend from 130-150' of water. Fish were being trolled on Jersey green machines, Hawaiian Eyes and rigged baits. A fair number of makos also offshore. Lots of blues around both Jones and Fire Island Inlets although most are small. Some weaks mixed with them. One and 2 oz. Whiptails or white umbrella rigs have both been accounting for most of the action. ARound the western bridges, some big blues falling to live

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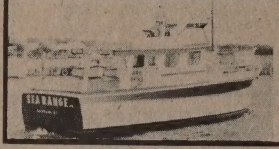

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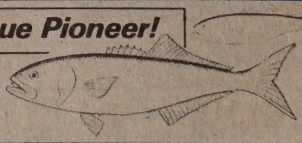
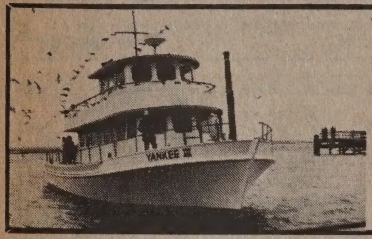


BLUES!

7 A.M. DAILY • 7 P.M. DAILY



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FLUKE

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bunker and some weakfish taking drifted sand worms. Good fluking at West and Squaw Islands with a lot of shorts still around. Crabbing has showed improvement and while snappers are in good supply they are still too small to keep.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Tackle Shop** reported plenty of fluke action but a lot of shorts are being taken with a good number of keepers mixed in. Biggest weighed in during the week tipped the scale at 6¾ lbs. Fish are well spread out with Squaw Island, West Island, the 2nd bridge, Goose Creek and Four Corners among the productive spots. Some good weakfish action this past week in Haunts Creek on sand worms and 007 jigs. A fair pick also at the Meadowbrook and Wantagh bridges. A few bass being clam chummed at the bridges with most in the 3-6 lb. class. Snappers are making a decent showing and crabs are beginning to grab a larger share of the fishing picture in the area.

John at **Pop's Fishing Station** summed up the fishing with one word. He called the general picture good with fluke, some sea bass and occasional weaks being taken. There are still a fair number of barely sublegal fluke but John figures the number of keeps now being taken is up around 75 or 80 percent. Blue claws are now in good supply as well and one party returned with more than 50 good sized crabs from the Amityville cut on the weekend. A Mrs. Friend had 5 fluke including a 4½ lber.

Captain Brian of the charter boat **Chinco** reported fair fluking earlier in the week with action tapering off towards the weekend. One plus is that most of the fish being taken are now keepers. The skipper has been fishing the inlet and Meadowbrook bridge area as Merrick Bay.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station & Marina reported plenty of fluke in the area but still a lot of shorts being taken. Best spots have been Merrick Pt. and off of the Merrick golf course. Small bluefish roam in and out of the inlet where both casters and trollers have been banging away at them. Offshore, plenty of tuna action from 120' of water on out. Harry Weinblatt and Ralph Drewes weighed in a 47 lb. yellowfin. They dropped a couple more as well after running 150° to 130 feet of water. Most unusual catch of the weekend was a 13¾ lb. lobster taken by diver Tom Green from the Stone Barge.

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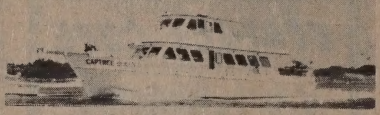

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New York Bight Report

by Stu Miller

FREEPORT

Capt Mike Miller of the **Apus Fleet** reports there are lots of small brown and mako shark around now and tigers are starting, chasing skipjack. Yellowfin tuna have been good at the HA Saturday but took a nosedive on Sunday. Bluefin tuna have been a good item to the east on the 550 line 15 to 18 miles south of Fire Island. Capt Tony Carni on the **Apus I** Saturday had a 109 lb. BF tuna. Capt Mike had a 60 lb. BF tuna Friday. Sunday saw a blue marlin estimated between 300 and 400 lbs. dropped after a 20 min. struggle. Loads of skippies around from 125' on out to 200' of water. These catches are on green machines for the tuna and marlin while the skippies are hitting red and white feathers. The Three Sisters area has been giving forth solid bluefish catches on deep trolled umbrellas.

The **Capt Bill** reports some nice fluke Thursday. Case in point, a 5 lb. 6 oz. fluke for Swede Nelson of Maspeth, and a 4 lb. 2 oz. fluke for George Thompson of Uniondale. During the week there was a 35 percent keeper ratio. This was all from local creeks through Jones Inlet. A cold water infusion has caused the action to settle down and there are still lots of short fish. The morning trips continue to produce best on sandeels, squid and spearing.

The **Starstream II** reports kind of a slow pick on blues. Thirty small blues were taken on Sunday's day trip. Larger fish are being taken at night. Fishing has to be classified as hot and cold. Your reporter sailed aboard the **Starstream** Thursday night and approximately 150 to 200 fish were taken, most from 2 to 4 lbs. There were also 3 gorillas in the 12 to 14 lb. category taken in the bow. This was all fishing on top and the fish were also nipping at the bait, so a lot of fish were dropped. One first timer, a girl of about 19, was hi hook with 9 blues. Richie says that the bluefishing could come into stride at any moment.

The **Capt Al** reports that on Friday after a picky day of bluefishing, he ended the day with a catch of 20 good sized weakfish just outside Jones Inlet. Monday through Thursday saw decent bluefishing, all jigging but that Friday, Saturday and Sunday, action fell off. The water is still cold down in the depths in the 49 degree area. Sunday's hi hook was 10 blues, fish running 2 to 4 lbs. Al says it looks like there's going to be another breaking loose of weaks in the

Ambrose Channel, with signs pointing that way. Some bonito are being caught everyday also. Weakfish are running 5 to 10 lbs. and everything is on diamond jigs. Night trips have been picky also but there are fish on every day and night trip, no skunk jobs.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports still some keeper fluke being brought in with a 20 percent keeper ratio. He's sending his boats to the Narrows around High Flats drain bridge, Fundy and the Inlet. Plenty of snappers around and flounders in the deeper holes. Tim Bradley bagged an 11 lb. weak on sandworms fished off the bottom off the Meadowbrook Bridge on high incoming tide late last week on a high flooding tide. Loads of bunker at the inlet and at the bridges.

The **Capt Gary** reports a slow day of fishing Thursday for Ray Dehaven. They picked some bluefish at Cholera in the morning and a few fluke at Jones Inlet in the afternoon. There was pretty much a repeat of this on Saturday's charter for John Pelese and group. On Sunday's trip for Ralph of Island Park and family, Anna Carifano took the pool with a 3. lb. fluke. Hi hook was 5 yr. old Robert. Mary also 5 yrs. old caught 2 keepers.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** fished blues Monday and Tuesday from 3 to 11 miles off the beach and hi hooks for the 2 days ran from 15 to 35 blues. Bob McGuinnes of the NYC 20th Precinct, had 20 bluefish late in the week they fished to the west for smaller blues with bonito and weaks mixed in. Saturday saw Chris Seiler and Dad from New City as pool winner and 2nd runner up on fluke for Manufacturers Hanover.

Freeport Boatmen's Association reports that the **Super Spray II** has been getting plenty of fluke action on it's 2 a day fluke trips with lots of midgets mixed in but also some nice keepers. Pools are usually going to 4½-6½ lb. fluke. Thursday saw H. Gole with a 5½ lb. fluke. On Sunday 8 yr. old Mike Lazeretta bag a 3 lb. weakfish using Capt Dick Hall's special rod. It's a chase job for blues on the night trips, Friday, Saturday and Sunday night but prior to that the catches were satisfactory on chummed fish. The association's trolling boats have been doing well on blues at Cholera with fish from 10 to 12 lbs. Smaller blues were taken earlier in the week on jigs at the channels. Lots of action at the Inlet with a few big keepers.

J.R. at **Sea Isle Sports** tells us that lots of white marlin are being hooked up with at the HA and south of the HA. There are also lots of bonito and skippies in the area. Yellowfin tuna have slowed a bit from last week but they are still making themselves known from the Texas Tower to the Canyon. Lots of small makos in 110' to 150' of water. Green Machines, white feathers and green and yellow feathers are doing best on these offshore species. Lots of little fluke in the back bays with some keepers and

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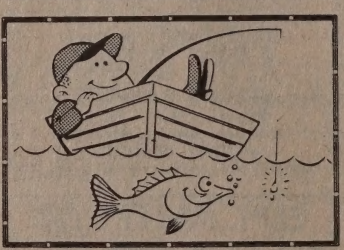

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spotty night weakfishing at the bridges and at the inlet.

Capt Walt Scott's **Freeport Charter Service Acme II** reports Pat Bellomos group enjoyed a steady pick of 8 to 10 lb. blues on 1 trip this week. Another charter for Bill Lundrie for National Moving Warehouse fished Reynolds for a good mix of adult and baby fluke. Keepers are getting more plentiful now in the Inlet says Walt. Another charter from JP Stevens Co. had a chum-bait slaughter taking 2 big barrels of alligator blues from 10 to 15 lbs. on an all day 1 drop trip SE of the NB. Another charter for Lou Bielicki's group filled 1 big barrel of 10 to 13 lb. slammers and as many were dropped. Salty Bay Yacht Club's trip for their annual Fluke Fest saw a good pick of mixed keepers and midgets in local waters.

BALDWIN

Mike at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** reports that fluke continue to be caught in Reynold's Channel, mainly small fish but that 1 customer drifting with live bunker in the inlet Friday and Saturday was catching several weakfish per day up to 9 lbs. The bunker dunker was Carl Smith of Baldwin and he did his deed at the beginning of the flood. Snappers are all around the bay being caught on shiners or small tins. Blueclaw crabs are becoming plentiful with 1 customer bringing in 3 buckets full.

POINT LOOKOUT

Charterboat **Marie III** called to report that Wednesday night's trip for Target Advertising and Research enjoyed good bluefishing at Cholera. Hi hook was 12 fish and catches averaged 4 to 8 fish per man on chum and bait. Fish also ran in slightly bigger schools of 10 to 12 lb. class fish. The 15 lb. pool winner was caught by Steve Bellissiom, while Dennis Wallpale caught his 1st bluefish ever. Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights were very spotty for bluefish working from 17 Fathoms to an area east of Fire Island Inlet. The fish running 4 to 10 lbs. and Capt. Ken Kline at the helm. Friday morning's bluefishing was slow and the charter finished in the afternoon with some active fluking in Reynold's. They had roughly 150 fluke with a 15 percent keeper ratio. Saturday and Sunday fluking was fair to excellent with the mornings best. Catches averaged 10 to 30 fish a man of which 2 to 6 fish could be legally kept. Best action has been in the back creeks and Reynold's Channel on spearing and squid.

Ed's Fishing Station reports that the flats off buoy 17 are producing some nice fluke right through this weekend. Friday saw Ed Puzza and Karen of NJ take 24 keepers from the flats on killies and spearing. Bruno Grabiec of NJ worked the flats also and scored with 19 keepers. The

weekend saw various boats average more keepers in the flats than in the channels. Lots of throwbacks and some keepers in Reynold's from the station to the HS. Swift Creek and the Meadowbrook Bridge area produced some nice flounders in the deep holes. Small tins look good to cocktail blues outside the mouth of the inlet at various times during the week. John Deluca bagged a 54 lb. bluefin tuna Saturday at SE Grounds plus 4 other BF tunas on butterfish and chum.

Scotty's Fishing Station tells of spotty fluking Saturday and an improvement Sunday. Fish average 4 to 5 keepers per man along with roughly 20 throwbacks a man. Offshore, Howie Gets on his boat Misdemenor scored with a 52 lb. yellowfin tuna taken 40 miles SE of Jone's on a green machine. A 22 lb. bluefish was caught this week at the HA on a green machine. Small bass, blues and weakfish are favoring an incoming tide at the mouth of Jone's Inlet hitting on S&G tigertails, diamond jigs and tubes.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Capt Ron Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** reports that all of his trips are scoring with good bluefish trolling with a mixture of a few weakfish and a lot of bonito up to 10 lbs. This is in the NY Bight area from the Breezy Point jetty to Sandy Hook. The blues are running 2 to 5 lbs. and this has been all umbrella trolling. Sharking has been slow.

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** tells us that the fluking has been spotty as to keeper fish with the Cedarhurst Yacht Club and surrounding creeks providing the most keepers. Tuna being taken at the Texas Tower on the private boat Marlena by John Feene. John had a 68 lb. yellowfin on a green machine. Harold Schecter on the private boat Bel Esprit trolled at the Texas Tower with a green machine fooling a 54 lb. white marlin. The same weapon tolled the death knell of a 45 lb. 8 oz. white marlin for Bob Corbelli. Sid Alter fishing on the Four Queens also had a 41 lb. white marlin.

Five-year-old Mathew Savarese displays his first weakfish. His brother Michael is alongside. Photo courtesy of Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle.

ISLAND PARK

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** reports a decent week of fluking through Thursday in Reynold's Channel and in the back creeks with things slowing on the weekend due to the heavy boat traffic. The weekdays saw 7 to 8 keeper fluke a man. There was nothing doing on the outside. The weekend saw catches of 4 to 5 keepers a man plus lots of shorts fishing Sea Robin belly, spearing and sandeels.

Rich at **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook tells of a 7¾ lb. fluke hauled aboard by Paul Sparber of Valley Stream along with 4 other keepers fishing Reynold's between the AB bridge and the Cedarhurst Yacht Club on the private boat Jayed-2. Lots of small fluke. Snappers are improving as are blueclaw crabs with some goodw weakfishing at the Meadowbrook Bridge and the Coast Guard Station. Try live bunker or live snapper for the weakfish and try casting tigertails if the fish are picky and need coaxing.

Charterboat **Capt Tom** called to say the weekend trip for John Flynn's Sportsman's Club had a slow pick on fluke in Reynold's Channel and surrounding creeks with lots of short fish encountered. The pool fish fell to 12 yr. old Dennis Melis of Hempstead with a 3 pounder.

EAST ROCKAWAY

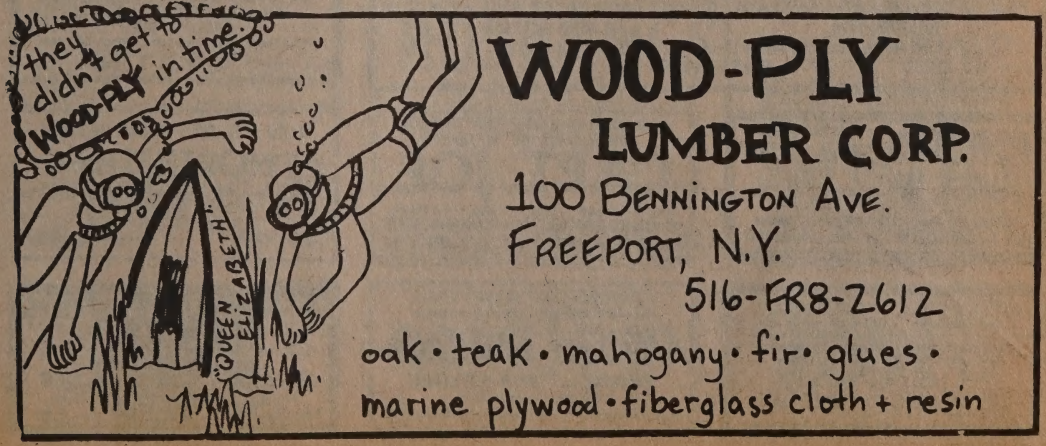
Skippy's Bait & Tackle reports that on Saturday a 7¾ lb. and a 6¾ lb. fluke were weighed in from Reynold's Channel off the HS. These catches were made on sandeels and squid. Blueclaw crabs are super and all over the place in Bay Park.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports that fluking slacked Monday through Thursday but blues and weaks made up for it in the action department. The best fluke job was done by Jessie Salem and Elliott Hannon fishing in Reynold's Channel at buoy 3, took 30 keeper fluke up to 4 lbs. Two other local sharpies grinned broadly with 26 keepers taken Saturday morning on killies in Deb's. Rudy Pennetti, Silvio Sarno and Jimmy Allen did a nice job on weaks and blues in Reynold's fishing under bunker schools. Blues went to 13 lbs. and weaks to 9 lbs. on live bunker. Gary Senser bagged a 62 lb. whitefin tuna trolling a green machine at the HA Thursday. Snappers and blueclaw crabs are showing in the back creeks and off piers.

HOWARD BEACH

Charterboat **Thermocline** reports Tuesday's charter for John Raffetto, Ronnie Williams Jim and Vie Tillotta was one of the best charters of the week with a mixed bag of 60 bluefish



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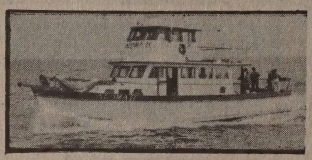

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plus a mixture of bonito and weaks up to 11 lbs. The blues ranged up to 9 lbs. The fish were jigged and umbrellased at the Tin Can and off the Coney Island flats. The weekend was slow as the schools were showing on the recorder but not hitting.

Capt Andy Draxdorf of the charterboat **Josie D II** called to say that Saturday's 3 man charter for Peter Erskine and pals scored with 22 bluefish and 4 bonito fishing around the HA on the last of the outgoing and the first of the flood on diamond jigs.

JAMAICA BAY

Vi at **Cross Bay Bait & Tackle** tells us that snappers are starting on spearing off both bridges. Porgies are a good item from ¾ to 1¼ lbs. off both bridges also, on worms. Both tides are working. Lots of blueclaw crabs being taken off the bridges. A 21 lb. striped bass fell victim to a bunker strip fished from the Marine Parkway Bridge by Joseph Leiste who managed to walk the fish off the bridge to his waiting gaff.

Brenda at **Big B Bait & Tackle** tells of small porgies and snappers near Burger King and Pathmark at Meadowmere Creek on spearing.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Jack Michaels of the open boat **America** reports very good catches of fluke at the channels and on various private pieces of productive bottom. Patty McBride, a regular on Wednesday had 44 keeper fluke, though it must be said that Patty is a shark shooter. On Monday Patty scored with 38 fluke. During the week Frank who is a regular had 24 keeper fluke. Artie, another regular, had 26 keepers. A 6 lb. fluke was the big fluke of the week. Squid, spearing and fish belly were the baits. Jack advises that the very best fluke bait that he has ever found has been a strip of fish belly, both as to freshness and the fact that it last a long time on the hook, giving any crabs around a tough time getting the bait off the hook.

Capt Kevin of the **Dorothy B** tells of a few fluke being caught at Ambrose Channel, the Tin Can, Coney Island flats and Sandy Hook Bay. Hudson Canyon said the skipper was producing super catches of both blue and yellowfin tuna.

Charlie at **Mike's Tackle Shop** reports the local bluefishing has been good through the weekend with small blues taken on diamond jigs and baittails at the channels, Romer Shoals and the Tin Can. Bigger bluefish from 12 to 18 lbs. are being taken at night by sharpies and private boats chunking bunker. Stripers at night on worms around the jetty area. Local fluking is fair at the Highlands, Sea Bright and Coney Island Flats. Lots of snappers in the bay and blueclaws starting.

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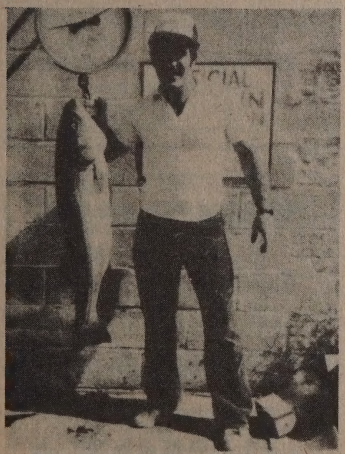

Charles Taylor found this 34 lb. striper in the rips at Eaton's Neck. It took a bunker chunk and was weighed at Four Winds Bait & Tackle.

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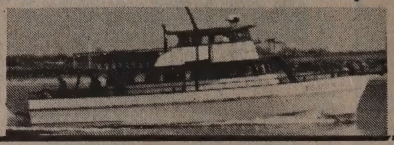

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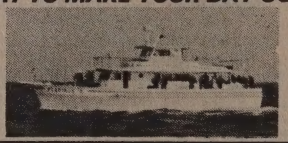

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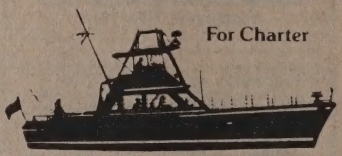

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STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** says the surf from Ft. Wadsworth to Tottenville is producing plenty of fluke but mostly shorts. For stripers try Cliff St. the last two hours of the ebb on Rebels and Hopkins. Fish are from shorts to 5 pounders. Weakfish are being caught at piers 8 and 12 for a 45 min. period at daybreak with fish 8 to 10 lbs. on bucktails with pork rind or on yellow Danny swimmers. Also try the sandbar at the entrance of Great Kills Harbor at night on live or cut bunker, fish 8 to 10 lbs. It's a pick. Porgies starting to show at the rockpile at Great Kills Park (sand porgies) for boat fishermen it's buoy 4 Annandale to buoy 14 Princess Bay Channel for cocktail blues and some 10 to 12 lb. blues plus 4 to 10 lb. weaks on bunker chunks. A few keeper fluke being picked from the same area. Loads of bait around says Lenny.

North Shore Report

by Martin Garrell

NEW ROCHELLE

Captain Pete Pearson of the **Klondike** reported excellent bluefishing 4 out of 5 weekdays last week. The only day it was slow was a day with high winds which made it difficult to stay on top of the fish. Even then some fares did all right by fishing with heavier jigs. On one day they had a good catch of fish in shallow water inside the #9 can. People who did the best were those who could cast. High hook on most days had 30 fish. Mixed in with bluefish were weakfish up to 14 lbs. The weekend unfortunately was another matter. Fish moved by then and numbers caught weren't even close to those of the weekday.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait & Tackle has been looking at fine catches of weaks and blues from Eaton's Neck area along with hand-sized porgies, small snappers, and lots of small bass (shorts to 8 lbs.) taken closer to home. Worms or cut bunker or Rebels fished at night take the bass, and the best spot on scup is the Old CBS Tower off Fort Slocum.

Captain Dom on the **Apache** told us that the open boat is still pulling lots of ¾ to 1 lb. flounder from the deeper waters off the Norfolk Islands. Porgies are also making up part of the bag, and Dom plans to concentrate on the latter as soon as the fish get thicker.

NEW ROCHELLE

BLUES, WEAKS
Klondike VII
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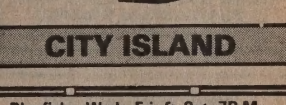

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GLEN COVE

John Casviola at the **Glen Cove Sports Shop** passed the word that snappers are everywhere, great news for the kids and cats. Best lures are small tins like the Krocodiles, and multigallon pails are filled quickly off the Pryble Pier. Sharpies are livelining those snappers for big bass and blues. Casciola suggests slipping surge tube hooks through the mouth and gills of the snapper, then rubber-banding the hook to the body. Bass to 12 lbs. are being trolled by worm fishermen who score about half their nights. Blues in the 1-2 lb. class can be found on the shoreline, and porgies from ½ lb. up are plentiful on any sand bottom, like the west end of Pryble Beach.

HUNTINGTON

A typical report from Finn Jacobs at **Huntington Prop & Tackle** read "Pete the Greek has been doing 'excellent' with boatfuls of weaks at the Obstruction Buoy." So has everyone else, according to George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait & Tackle** and Ronnie Ferraro at **Ronnie's**. Most of the weaks are 6 and 7 pounders but there were a few over 10 during the weekend. A 12 lb. 6 oz. fish won the derby at **Four Winds**. Fully 75 percent of the fish are taken on diamonds like the Tri-Fin Tigerstrip in 3 oz. size plus a small umbrella tube like the Secora #40 about 1' to 2' above the jig. Valentine is going through 300-400 tubes per week at the shop. Lime green seems to be the best evening color with dark red good after dark. Hot orange and white work well in the daytime. After dark, it's not a bad idea to slip a stinger-armed jelly worm in red, white or purple to the tail of the diamond.

In addition to the weaks, loads of blues above 8 lbs. were in the Obstruction Buoy area on Friday night, and a few bass were trolled in the rips off buoy 13. Although few folks are fishing the fluke, they are in solidly, too, as indicated by Robin Ambrosio's 10 lb. doormat taken on a trolled bucktail. John Ambrosio added a 14 lb. 7 oz. bass to the family catch as well.

Ferraro told us that the biggest weak seen at the shop all week weighed 12¼ lbs., and that the average blues were around 5 lbs. although these fish could run anywhere from 3 to over 15 lbs. Porgies were present outside buoy 13 on Saturday, but not on Sunday.

Packy Collins of the **Ever Ready**, called to say that the night trips had been super with up to 300 weaks and blues for 25 fares. Daytime is a much quieter scene, with a couple of fish per person. Collins claims that green seems to be his most consistent color at night for tube teasers above the diamonds as well as for the jelly worms on the jig tail. On Friday night Dolores Schmitt had 17 blues and 2

weaks, and on Saturday Ms. Schmitt posted a score of 10 weaks. Even Renaldo Snypes struck gold on Friday with a half dozen weaks.

Offshore angler Norman Brown called to say he fished aboard the **Ever Ready** Thursday night and walked away with the $62 pool with the help of an 8½ lb. weakfish. A boy caught a larger one but he was not in the pool. This was in the rips about 2 miles north of Huntington Harbor. Lots of bait in the water said Norman and the average catch was 2 weaks a man. A few blues were mixed in. All the weaks ran 6 to 9 lbs. on diamond jigs with green teaser tubes.

Sante Moretti called to say he was fishing with Pete Novellino on Pete's boat Halahula at buoy 13 off Eaton's Neck. This was on an afternoon's flooding tide Thursday and drifting 2 large squid strips, a 13 lb. fluke was hooked and landed by Pete with the assistance of Sante on the net. The fish was weighed in at Larkfield Sports.

NORTHPORT

Tom Bowman at **Bowman's** explained that the Eaton's Triangle was getting enough of a reputation to pull a city of boats during Friday night's action. Although 8:30 to 10 p.m. was best, daytime low tides produced on occasion, as well. Bluefish fans should try fishing off Crab Meadow Creek in 15-30' of water. Fish are 5-9 lbs., and provide a lot of fun on the surface. Squid-sandeel combos work best now for the fluke in the rips where 6-8 oz. sinkers are "de rigeur."

PORT JEFFERSON

Candy Caraftis at the **Caraftis Fishing Station** told us that there were lots of fluke now off White Beach on any moving water for anglers fishing sandeel-squid combinations. Although there are many shorts, there the average keeper runs about 3 lbs. Porgies with occasional sea bass can be found off Old Field, and weaks and blues provide evening action on top off Mount Misery. Blues in the 3-6 lb. class can be trolled or jigged in the mornings as well.

MOUNT SINAI

Dick Brown at **Dick's Sporting Goods** feels that "in 45 years, the fishing has never been so good on all species...within 5 miles of the beach." There's excellent fluking on 2 pounders near the beach off Miller Pace, and the shorts are not numerous there. Largest flatties will push 6 lbs. Porgy fishing is pretty good, and blues are abundant in mornings and evenings. Choppers tend to run 3-6 lbs.

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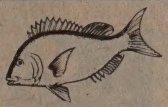

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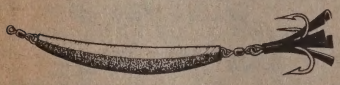

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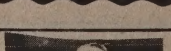

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North Fork Report

by Martin Garrell

AQUEBOGUE

Ed Kopack at **Warren's Tackle Center** spoke of small blues off the Northville Pipeline as well as off the Beachcomber Motel in 30-35' of water. Short fluke are swarming around the Mattituck Inlet, and small Hopkins will provide a lot of action on these fish.

MATTITUCK

Carlie Caraftis at the **Mattituck Inlet Fishing Station** reported porgy sizes were 1/2-3/4 lb. in most catches with a few really good fish showing from time to time. Best spots are off Cooper's and east of the Beachcomber Motel. Weaks and blues are well offshore between Horton's and Duck Pond Point, and buoy 5 to the west is the spot for small blues.

NEW SUFFOLK

Captain Marty's informed us that the summer weakfish run is still holding up with fish to 4 lbs. and that porgy fans are doing well off Rose's and Cow Neck on fish in the 3/4 lb. class. Snapper action is just starting. Saturday was a productive day, but Sunday was rather sloppy, due to strong southerlies.

SOUTHOLD

Ace Cottral at the **Port of Egypt** explained that weaks and blues were still showing between the Orient Shoal and the beach. Tube rigged diamond jigs on slow retrieves were deadly in early mornings and evenings. The body of weaks and blues stretches between Rocky Point and Mulford, with weaks in the 7-8 lb. group and blues about half that size. Some nice porgies were showing off Terry's Pt. and in Petty's Bight while fluke are available for a short while around slack water off the Orient shoal. Most flatties are in the 3-4 lb. class. Flounder and small blackfish persist off the Eastern tip. Back in the Bay, there are small porgies around buoys 14 and 16, South Ferry, Sag Harbor, and Cedar Point. A few eaks can still be jigged off the Pridwin and Buoy 11 on the top of the tide along the steep Shelter Island ledges in 30-80' of water.

GREENPORT

Dave Brenner says the **Peconic Star** has been loading up on porgies by spot fishing over different areas, such as the Gardiner's Bay wrecks. Sizes

are getting better with some fish above 1½ lbs. now showing up. Best fish of the week was a 9½ lb. weakfish.

Anna Rainis informs us that fluking is consistently good off the Ruins at Gardiner's for the **Blue Albatross** with some 70 keepers for 6-10 fares in a day's angling. Biggest fish on board run 4-5 lbs.

Art White at **A.P. White Bait Shop** tells us that the **Nancy Ann** is slaughtering weaks and blues between Truman's and Horton's, and that the porgy fishing south of Plum Island and East of Gardiner's is really good now. A few stripers are being taken in the Sluiceway and there are a few fluke off Trumans; however, the better fluking seems to be off the Ruins.

South Fork Report

by Stu Miller

SHINNECOCK

The **Capt Clark II** tells of good porgy fishing in Peconic Bay this past week with fish running ¾ to 1 lb. on sand worms and clam. Friday saw Astoria angler James Whittaker hi hook with 28 porgies and 4 weakfish. For the day there were 18 weakfish boated in the 2 to 4 lb. class which is a good indicator that the summer weaks are starting to move into Peconic Bay. This Saturday Capt Clark will be making an ocean wreck trip for sea bass, flounder and blackfish, weather permitting.

Speck's Bait & Tackle reports fluking has greatly improved with excellent catches in Shinnecock Bay of fish under 3 lbs. There are now more keepers than short fish. West and East Channels have been best on incoming on spearing, killies and sandeels. One to 3 lb. blues are sporadic in Shinnecock Inlet, the canal and Heady Creek on tin and poppers. Snappers are on the increase in size and quantities and are now up to 7''. Flounders being caught at buoy 21 and 22 west of the bridge. As for the Peconics, 4 anglers from Brooklyn Troy Cross, Willie Fogel, Marcus Fogel and Nelson Hall fished on the SW side of Jessups and scored with nearly 100 porgies in the ½ lb. range and 10 blowfish up to 8''. Lots of blowfish in that area. Small blues and weaks outside Cold Spring Pond and Sebonac Inlet. White marlin being picked up in 110' of water.

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NOYAC

Noyac Marina tells of an upswing in the Noyac Bay fishing. On Sunday Louis Tufano of Merrick bagged a 6 lb. weakfish while porgy fishing. Mike Kalamidis of Seaford and Frank Martino of Wantagh fishing in 20' of water between the Monastery and buoy 16, took 23 big filletable porgies plus alot of smaller ones on worm and squid. On Saturday a 7 lb. weakfish was taken by another customer who also lost several weakfish. This individual also had a solid catch of meidum size porgies fishing the buoy 16 area, both tides.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** reports that the porgy fishing Thursday, Friday and Sunday was excellent with all customers getting atleast a 5 gallon bucket full of porgies, all mediums on clam, both tides. Saturday, says Artie was one of the best porgy days he has ever seen. By 10 a.m. all the customers were ready to call it a day. There were over 1000 porgies for 16 fares and doubles and triples were flying over the rail. The boat fished Cedar Point, Crow Shoals and south of Plum Island. Fluke was on the menu Monday through Wednesday with Monday being an excellent day. Westbury angler Sig Anderson took the pool with a 10 lb. fluke. Second place was nailed down by an 8 lb. fluke. Catches are averaging 4 to 10 keeper fluke a man and there are quite a few throwbacks. Keepers are averaging 2 to 5 lbs. on sandeels and squid. Fluking is around Gardiner's Island, Truman Beach and Constellation Rock.

Surf Report

by Fred Golofaro

With the summer doldrum making surf reports more and more difficult to come by we have room to touch upon a couple of other subjects that casters should be aware of.

Sal Pantaleone phoned from J&R Sports Center in Oakdale early Wednesday morning to relate an incident that occurred the previous evening at Democrat Pt. It seems that the bar at the tip of the Point, which has been producing some good catches of the small blues as well as some weakfish, has been cutoff by a deepened cut at all but low tide. Prior to Tuesday night wading out onto the bar was no problem but by that evening's ebb tide, 5 of the dozen casters out on the point attempted to make their way off and were swept into the inlet's swift current. Miraculously, no lives were lost despite two of the casters spending from 20 to 30 minutes in the water. The Coast Guard responsed to a CB message relayed from a buggy fisherman through Augie's Bait and Tackle in Babylon. With the help of lights directed over the water by four wheel drive vehicles on the beach, all five made is ashore safely while the Coast Guard picked up the remaining anglers off of the bar. The purpose of reporting this turn of events is not to dramatize the incident but to make everyone, especially novice surfmen

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'74 LARSON 16½' Full canvas. 18 gal. built-in gas tank. 1974 Cox trailer. 1977 70 h.p. Johnson. $2900. 516-981-6097 6-9PM.

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21' STARCRAFT Mariner, 85 h.p. Mercury, S.S. prop., custom console, 50 gal. insulated fish box, live bait tank. Lowrance 610A flash/graph recorder, gauges. Galvanized tilt trailer, elec. winch. Many extras. Mint cond. $6500. 1-203-346-4511.

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1977 23' SEA CRAFT, cuddy. New in '78; 233 MerCruiser. Si-Tex, Loran C & recorder. VHF, CB, chair. Outriggers. New top. 914-246-9046.

28' GROVERBUILT 1979. All teak decking & trim; 6 cyl. Lehman diesel, custom engine mounts & prop. Si-Tex recorder, Nelco Loran, standard VHF. Downriggers, outriggers & too much to list. Will sell with or w/o electronics. Mint cond.; must see. $35,000. 516-766-3838 Days or Eves.

1979 AQUASPORT 19' 6" F.F., 175 h.p. Johnson, 1981 Shoreline E-Z Loader trailer. Full canvas; all gauges, compass, flasher DF. Twin v-bunks w/cushions. All in mint cond. $8000. Firm. 679-9009.

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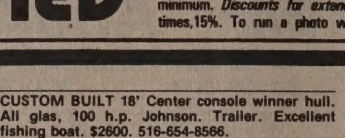
Antique Outboard Motor. Alto Serial #442-6. 717-299-2450.

CUSTOM BUILT 18' Center console winner hull. All glas, 100 h.p. Johnson. Trailer. Excellent fishing boat. $2600. 516-654-8566.

AQUASPORT 19' 6" 1979 launched 1980; 85 Evinrude 7 h.p. Merc. Dockage rights Island Park. Hardly used. $7000. 516-431-8593.



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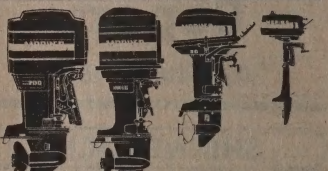

1981 MERC MARINER OUTBOARDS 1981

2-$295; 4-$460; 5-$530; 8-$670; 9.9-$860; 15-$940; 25-$1145; 30-$1235; 40-$1340; 50-$1755; 60-$2085; 70-$2285- 80-$2475; 90-$2460; 115-$2820; 150-$3635; 175-$3735; 200-$3935. FOB Shipping arranged. SPORTS MARINE, 201-736-3909. West Orange, New Jersey.

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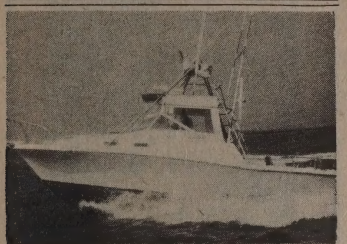

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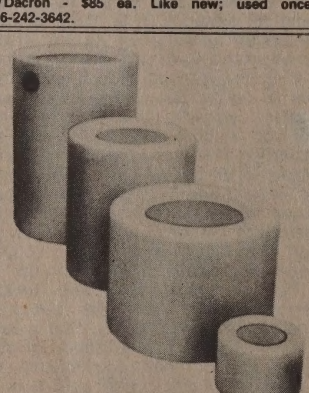

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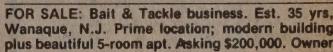

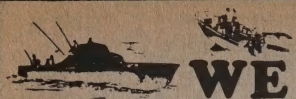

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aware of what has become a dangerous situation.

Beach buggy operators should take note that there has been a change in beach access regulations for Democrat Point. Permit holders can now can get on the beach between 5PM and 7AM. As long as you on before 7AM, you may remain for a period not to exceed 24 hours. A full explanation of the new changes will be covered in an upcoming editorial.

As I said before fishing reports were very difficult to come by, so we'll just touch upon a couple of the more positive reports all of which happen to be from the South Shore and east end. Despite the preponderance of fish and bait in the Sound, the fish seem to be staying out of the range of surf casters.

At the west end of the Island, Bernie Haag of the **Long Beach Sports Marina** reported that a couple of sharpies have been putting away a couple of bass each morning in the 20 lb. class. Action has been off of the Atlantic Beach jetty on cut bunker with all of the fishing confined to between 5 and 7AM. On the Bay side of the Silver Pt. Jetty, John Silvestri took weaks of 5 and 6 lbs. on Friday morning. To the east both Jones Inlet and Fire Island Inlet seemed to be well supplied with very small blues ranging from 1 to 2 lbs., a few weakfish are being taken from amongst the blues with tin taking fish during the daylight hours and sand worms taking the weaks after dark. Casters working the Sore Thumb enjoyed a good flurry of weakfish action on Friday morning's ebb tide. Most of those on the scene had between 3 and 5 weaks up to 8 lbs. Small blues were in the wash at Democrat Sunday morning when a half dozen surfmen totalled a couple dozen of the little choppers on tin.

Tom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported that the ocean beaches finally showed some life this week. Vinnie Picece fished sand worms along the Southampton stretch of ocean front Friday night and took 6 school bass from 5 to 8 lbs. All of the action was confined to the bottom of the tide. At the inlet jetty small blues have been entertaining casters throwing small tins.

Out in Montauk Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Bait and Tackle** said things have been very quiet around the point with the only fish checked into the shop all belonging to one angler. George Dalecki of Wading River fishing somewhere on the south side over the weekend, weighed in stripers of 24½ and 17½ lbs. He also had 2 school bass as well as a 12½ lb. bluefish.

There was at least one other good sized striper taken at the point on the weekend. Striper Surf Club member Mike Kaland reported that fellow club member Jack Driscoll of Garden City beached a 21 lb. 10 oz. striper at False Bar 2AM Sunday morning. Jack took the fish on a darter.

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High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEWPORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	7:55	8:15	8:35	9:00	8:30	8:50	9:25	9:40	11:50	–	11:15	11:35	7:40	8:05	7/30
FRI.	8:45	9:00	9:30	9:50	9:20	9:40	10:15	10:30	12:05	12:40	–	12:10	8:30	8:55	7/31
SAT.	9:30	9:45	10:15	10:40	10:15	10:25	11:00	11:20	12:55	1:30	12:25	12:55	9:20	9:40	8/1
SUN.	10:20	10:30	11:05	11:25	11:05	11:15	11:50	–	1:45	2:10	1:15	1:40	10:05	10:25	8/2
MON.	11:05	11:15	11:50	–	11:50	–	12:05	12:35	2:25	2:55	2:00	2:25	10:55	11:10	8/3
TUE.	11:50	11:55	12:10	12:40	12:05	12:40	12:55	1:25	3:10	3:40	2:45	3:15	11:40	11:55	8/4
WED.	–	12:35	12:55	1:25	12:50	1:25	1:40	2:15	3:55	4:25	3:30	4:00	–	12:25	8/5
THUR.	12:40	1:20	1:40	2:15	1:35	2:10	2:35	3:10	4:50	5:15	4:20	4:45	12:45	1:15	8/6

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Ouogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Sealord Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Nianfic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

7/31	5:52	8:20
8/1	5:53	8:18
8/2	5:54	8:17
8/3	5:55	8:16
8/4	5:56	8:15
8/5	5:57	8:14
8/6	5:58	8:12

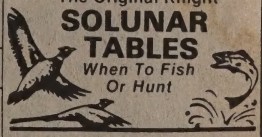
Moonrise/Moonset

7/31	6:12AM	8:48PM
8/1	7:18AM	9:24PM
8/2	8:23AM	9:56PM
8/3	9:27AM	10:26PM
8/4	10:28AM	10:54PM
8/5	11:28AM	11:21PM
8/6	12:26PM	11:48PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr	FULL	2nd Qtr.
8/29	8/7	8/15	8/22

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt



The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	4:55	11:30	5:15	11:05
Fri.	5:45	—	6:00	11:55
Sat.	6:40	12:45	6:55	12:25
Sun.	7:30	1:50	8:05	1:20
Mon.	8:25	2:40	8:55	2:15
Tues.	9:10	3:25	9:40	3:00
Wed.	10:00	4:15	10:30	3:50
Thurs.	10:50	5:00	11:15	4:40

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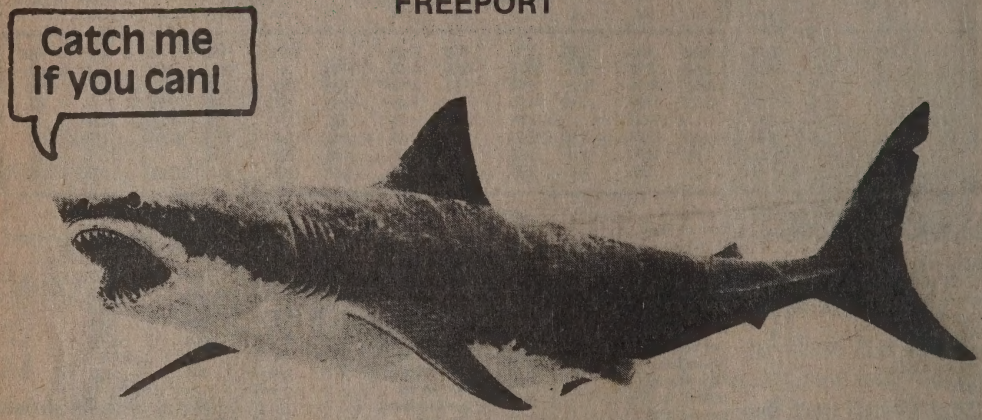
FREEPORT



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